

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

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on Sunday

US trade talks in cordial atmosphere: Goyal

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Big Picture

Legacy on the menu

As the city lights up for Deepavali, Bengaluru's old eateries still draw crowds. What is their secret recipe?

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Beyond the medal

Even as this year's Peace Prize sparks global reflection, Oslo's Nobel Peace Center remains a testimony to amity

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KYC growth sparks data concerns

India's e-KYC firms handle millions of personal records, raising questions on consent and security

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In just over a month, a 78-year-old retired banker from South Delhi's Gulmohar Park lost nearly Rs 23 crore, his entire life savings, to a network of digital scammers. Between August 1 and September 4, the banker was coerced into transferring this amount to cybercriminals. The retired banker's ordeal is not isolated. In July, a retired defence personnel in Bengaluru lost Rs 1.8 crore in a similar fraud, and just last week, a doctor in Maharashtra was duped of Rs 7 crore in a digital arrest scam.

These incidents mirror a rising pattern of digital scams ensnaring victims — from businessmen and

professionals to actors, retired defence personnel and bankers — across the country.

As per the data provided by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in parliament in July, India's cyber fraud losses surged by 206% between 2023 and 2024 —

INSIGHT

from Rs 7,465 crore in 2023 to Rs 22,845 crore in 2024. The number of fraud cases increased from 24 lakh in 2023 to 36 lakh in 2024.

According to the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which operates under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the losses due to cyber frauds are likely to increase to Rs

1.2 lakh crore in 2025. This amounts to about 0.7% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

In a majority of cases involving digital arrest and other cyber frauds, sensitive personal information of the victims is used to threaten and coerce them into making payments. The retired banker, who lost Rs 23 crore, was falsely informed that his Aadhaar number had been used for activities linked to terror funding.

The Bengaluru-based retired defence officer was told that his Aadhaar number had been used to open a bank account involved in money laundering cases linked to Naresh Goyal, founder of the now-defunct Jet Airways.

Much of this sensitive



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

information reaches cybercriminals through data breaches, phishing attacks, SIM-swap frauds and leaks from banks or third-party vendors.

"There have been many instances of banks' databas-

es being hacked and customer data being made available on the dark net. The banks report to police only in case of loss of money," a source at the Kerala Police said.

According to Kerala government sources, between

2020 and 2024, the state lost Rs 3,207 crore in 5.82 lakh cyber crimes cases.

Such cases underline a troubling paradox: the very systems designed to protect citizens are increasingly being manipulated against them. Among the most exploited safeguards is the electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC) process. The objective of the e-KYC process is to enable firms, especially financial institutions, to verify the identity and address of the customer they are onboarding online, to prevent illegal activities like frauds, money laundering and terrorist financing. Ironically, cybercriminals are exploiting the very system to defraud people.

The process often begins with scammers stealing per-

sonal information or creating fake identities and using them to complete the e-KYC process fraudulently. Once verified, they gain unauthorised access to the potential victims' accounts or use the KYC credentials to open a new account, take loans and apply for credit cards in the victim's name, resulting in significant financial loss and reputational damage.

At the heart of the KYC process lies Aadhaar, the 12-digit unique identity number used to authenticate individuals. As of February 2025, Aadhaar authentication transactions had reached 14,555 crore, while e-KYC transactions stood at 2,311 crore, according to data from the Ministry of Electronics & IT.

► **e-KYC industry, Page 2**

Quickly



'B'luru corpns' income will be spent locally'

Deputy CM D K Shivakumar has announced that property tax revenue within each Bengaluru municipal corporation will now be spent in the same area. Accordingly, property tax revenue generated by the IT-BT sector along the ORR will now be used for the development of the newly formed Bengaluru East Corporation.

Details on Page 3

'Prior nod must for events at public places'

The Karnataka government issued an order Saturday making "prior permission" mandatory for any private organisation or a group of persons to use government property or premises. The GO came as the RSS announced route marches in the state on Sunday.

Details on Page 3

Silent march for statehood thwarted in Leh

A silent march planned jointly by the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) to press for statehood for Ladakh Union Territory could not take place in Leh on Saturday, after authorities imposed restrictions and suspended mobile internet services. However, hundreds of residents in neighbouring Kargil participated in a peaceful silent march.

Beyond copyright, the struggle for access to knowledge

Expensive academic resources leave many scholars excluded, making equitable access a policy imperative



AI GENERATED IMAGE

SHAILEE BASU

On August 19, 2025, the Delhi High Court directed internet service providers across India to block access to Sci-Hub and its newly launched sister site, Sci-Net. These platforms, collectively referred to as shadow libraries, are widely used to access academic journal articles, books and other research materials that are otherwise locked behind paywalls. The order followed a contempt plea by major academic publishers, including Elsevier and Wiley, who alleged that Sci-Hub's founder, Alexandra Elbakyan, had violated a previous undertaking not to upload new copyrighted content.

According to the plaintiffs, new articles, including those published after 2022, had been uploaded to both Sci-Hub and Sci-Net, despite Elbakyan's 2020 commitment to refrain from distributing such material. The Court agreed, found both websites to be

"rogue" platforms under the criteria laid down in *UTV Software Communication Ltd & Ors v 1337x.to & Ors*, and ordered a domain-level block. The judgment emphasised the platforms' disregard for copyright and ease of URL evasion, citing the need for a more comprehensive enforcement mechanism.

While legally rooted in contempt enforcement,



the order sidelines broader questions: How should India balance copyright with educational rights? What happens when legal access mechanisms fail to serve large sections of its research community?

For many Indian students and scholars, shadow libraries are not optional, they are essential. A 2021 study in the *Journal of Sci-*

entometric Research found that Indian users made over 13 million downloads on Sci-Hub in 2017 alone — 8.7% of global traffic. Nearly 19% of these downloads were in the medical and health sciences sectors, where access to updated research is vital.

Academic publishing is notoriously expensive. For PhD scholars working under tight resource constraints and surviving on stipends of less than Rs 30,000 a month, the challenge is stark. Academic articles can cost anywhere between \$20 and \$50 per paper.

In some cases, specialised resources or e-books run into thousands of dollars, placing them far beyond the reach of most students without open-access platforms such as Sci-Hub and LibGen.

While some centrally funded universities subscribe to major databases, access remains uneven. Most state universities and private institutions lack adequate subscriptions. Students from less-resourced institutions often find themselves at a stark disadvantage compared to peers at globally connected research centres. In that context, platforms like Sci-Hub served as powerful equalisers, especially for those on the margins of the formal academic ecosystem.

The Delhi High Court's ruling enforces a previously recorded undertaking, but its logic treats Sci-Hub and Sci-Net as equivalent to commercial piracy operations.

► **Shadow libraries, Page 2**

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Balancing compliance and innovation

e-KYC industry, from Page 1

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its master direction on KYC, has made the process mandatory. KYC can be completed through both face-to-face interactions and non-face-to-face digital channels. E-KYC is facilitated via platforms such as the Central KYC Records Registry and DigiLocker.

Today, over 70% of new retail accounts are opened digitally — a shift that has not only streamlined onboarding but also created significant business opportunities for the KYC industry.

Cybercriminals are increasingly leveraging the sensitive personal information shared for such KYC adherence to intimidate and manipulate victims into compliance. A common tactic involves impersonating officials from law enforcement or regulatory agencies such as the police, Central Bureau of Investigation, anti-narcotics units or the Reserve Bank of India. Using platforms like WhatsApp or Skype, they initiate video calls and falsely accuse victims of involvement in serious crimes such as money laundering, drug trafficking or human trafficking.

Well-educated and affluent individuals are increasingly becoming victims of cybercrimes, with scammers generally exploiting psychological vulnerabilities and leveraging sensitive personal information to coerce victims into complying.

But how do scammers get access to sensitive personal information?

Fraudsters use various methods like phishing and malware to steal data. They also exploit digital vulnerabilities like unpatched software or weak passwords. Apart from this, there are instances of data breaches at government institutions and private companies. Such data is being sold on the dark web at nominal prices.

The stakes are high because sensitive personal and financial information of over 140 crore Indians is linked to Aadhaar. From permanent account number (PAN), social security details and bank accounts to phone numbers and passports, every aspect of an individual's identity is connected to Aadhaar. Though the government maintains that the Aadhaar database is fully secure, independent institutions have often raised concerns about the system's security and privacy. Compounding the risk, data breaches happen at other levels as well.

Over 86% of households in the country now have internet access. While this expanding digital landscape has enabled citizens to access digital services at their fingertips, it has also opened new avenues for cyber fraud, making robust cybersecurity measures more critical than ever.

Identity verification

As cyber threats grow, identity verification firms are becoming key players in protecting the system and ensuring safer digital transactions. Leading companies across sectors — from banks and fintech to retail, IT, telecom, healthcare and e-commerce — engage identity verification firms to verify their customers, employees and other stakeholders' credentials and data.

The rising demand for digital services, coupled with increasing fraud risks and tighter regulatory scrutiny, has fueled the growing need for identity verification. These systems are now seen as a critical back-end infrastructure for the economy, enabling fast, remote onboarding while significantly reducing costs.

In India, the identity verification business is dominated by start-ups with business growing at an average annual rate of around 20%.

The verification or onboarding process begins when a company initiates it for a candidate or customer. The individual receives a secure link to complete the verification independently.

"In the beginning, explicit consent is obtained to collect and verify customers' information in full compliance with legal requirements, solely for the purpose of the specified onboarding," said Ajay Trehan, Founder and CEO of AuthBridge, an

A double-edged sword

As digital transactions grow, an industry is rapidly emerging around e-KYC - the electronic process of verifying identities without physical documents

e-KYC services are sought by financial and non-financial institutions to verify the credentials of a customer

Several companies, including start-ups, now provide e-KYC services using tools such as biometrics, document scanning, near-field communication and artificial intelligence

Aadhaar-based identity verification is most widely used in India. In Sept 2025 alone, nearly 25 crore e-KYC transactions were executed through Aadhaar

There are risks associated with digital verification. Recently, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology investigated some service providers for possibly bypassing protocols and misusing official databases

India's cyber fraud losses soar

Rs 7,465 cr
in 2023

Rs 22,845 cr
in 2024

206%
Rise

How does e-KYC work?

Data collection: Customers submit key personal details like name, address and identity documents through web portals or mobile apps

Document verification: Optical Character Recognition technology scans identity documentation like passports, driver's licenses or national IDs to check their authenticity

Biometric authentication: Biometric checks, such as fingerprint or facial recognition, compare the customer's biometrics with their submitted documents to enhance security

Database cross-verification: The system cross-checks customer data against trusted databases, like government records and credit bureaus, to confirm the identity in real-time

Real-time processing: Customers receive instant feedback on their verification status, drastically reducing onboarding time compared to the traditional method

Secure data handling: The system encrypts sensitive customer information and uses secure communication channels throughout the process to protect privacy and ensure compliance with data protection regulations.

(Source: fraud.com, imarc, businessresearchinsights portal, advocategandhi.com, anuraagsingh.com, lawfullegal.in, indiadatamap.com, Truvera)

Compiled by Divyashri Mudakavi

DH Graphic: Ramu Mastaiiah

identity verification firm.

"As the process progresses, all data collected for verification is automatically purged and never stored, ensuring complete privacy. This approach is communicated transparently to the user to maintain clarity," Trehan said, explaining his firm's working.

The sharp growth of the financial technology sector has been closely linked to the enabling environment for identity verification created due to the Aadhaar ecosystem.

"Identity verification is the crucial first step in delivering digital financial services," said Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) CEO Sugandh Saxena.

She noted that regulated technology (RegTech) companies offering identity verification provide technology layers building upon existing public infrastructure.

With fraud techniques evolving rapidly, identity verification firms are introducing new layers of security to protect users while also ensuring a smooth onboarding experience.

Rohit Madan, Partner at Deloitte India, emphasised the broader impact, "Identity verification start-ups are reshaping digital trust by offering agile, tech-driven KYC solutions."

The identity verification platforms typically use artificial intelligence (AI), biometrics, and real-time data validation to authenticate users and simplify onboarding.

"However, the journey is far from straightforward. Start-ups face challenges navigating fragmented regulations, managing data privacy concerns and staying ahead of increasingly sophisticated fraud. The pace of technological change

demands constant innovation yet trust and security must remain uncompromised," said Madan.

Mukesh Pandey, Managing Director and Co-founder of RupyaPaaisa, a fintech start-up, said the identity verification platforms enable faster customer acquisition.

For a payments-led economy, identity vendors act as gatekeepers and enablers. "They reduce onboarding friction and costs, unlock new customer bases and enable regulated institutions to comply with RBI KYC requirements for digital onboarding," said Pandey.

Regulations

While identity verification platforms are not authorised or required to store data, there have been instances of misuse.

There have also been instances of unauthorised use of the sensitive Aadhaar database. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology recently cracked down on several firms for alleged use of unauthorised channels.

"There is an urgent need for the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 to be effectively implemented so that identity verification firms can be held accountable for failing to protect personal data or for sharing or selling it without consent of the customer/client," said Rajiv Chugh, Partner and National Leader Policy Advisory and Specialty Services, EY India, which offers KYC services.

"Regulations should ensure that data collected and verified for a specific purpose is used and stored solely for that purpose and e-KYC firms adhere to the terms and conditions agreed upon by the individual," Chugh added.

Under the Data Protection law, there are

provisions to impose up to Rs 250 crore penalty for data breaches. But there is no instance of the penalty being imposed.

Chugh said the penalty provisions under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act need to be highlighted to ensure compliance. "In fact, the firms on whose behalf the data is being collected would also need to be held accountable for working with non-compliant data identification firms.

"The mechanisms to protect the rights of the data principal (individuals whose data is processed) are already in place, they now need to be enforced without any delay," he added.

Mukesh Pandey said the identity verification companies require a multi-layered model of regulation encompassing a national data regulator, robust sectoral regulation and market level operating standards.

According to Rohit Madan, the regulatory bar has been raised with the enactment of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act.

"Start-ups must now implement robust privacy frameworks, ensure timely breach disclosures and adhere to strict penalty clauses for non-compliance. This marks a shift from optional best practices to mandatory accountability," Madan said.

Identity verification start-ups that strike the right balance between compliance, user experience and innovation are well-positioned to lead the future of secure digital ecosystems. As digital identity becomes central to financial services, e-governance, and consumer platforms, the ability to verify trust at scale will be a defining advantage, he added.

(With inputs from Arjun Raghunath in Thiruvananthapuram and Mrityunjay Bose in Mumbai)

Restraining factors

■ E-KYC raises risks of data breaches and identity theft as it involves handling sensitive personal data

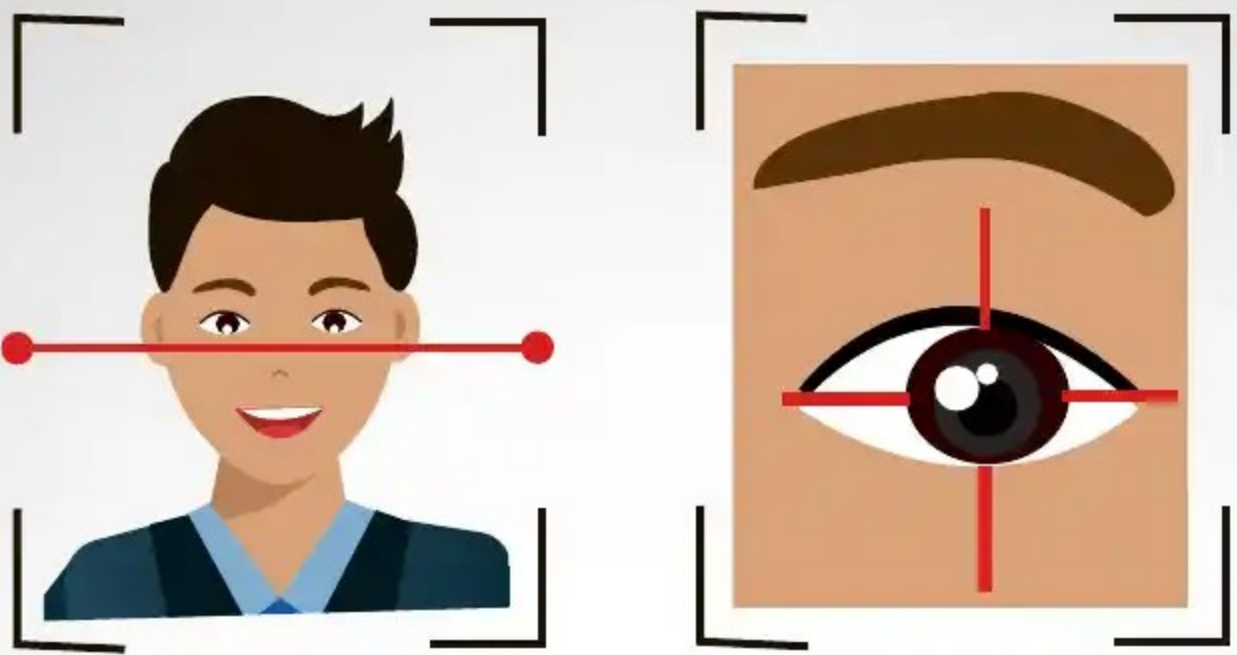
■ Inadequate cybersecurity measures and the use of AI can lead to leaks of sensitive biometric data

■ Centralised databases pose a risk of mass surveillance and profiling

■ The complexity of a few e-KYC methods, which includes file verification or biometric scans, can be a barrier for individuals who are not tech savvy

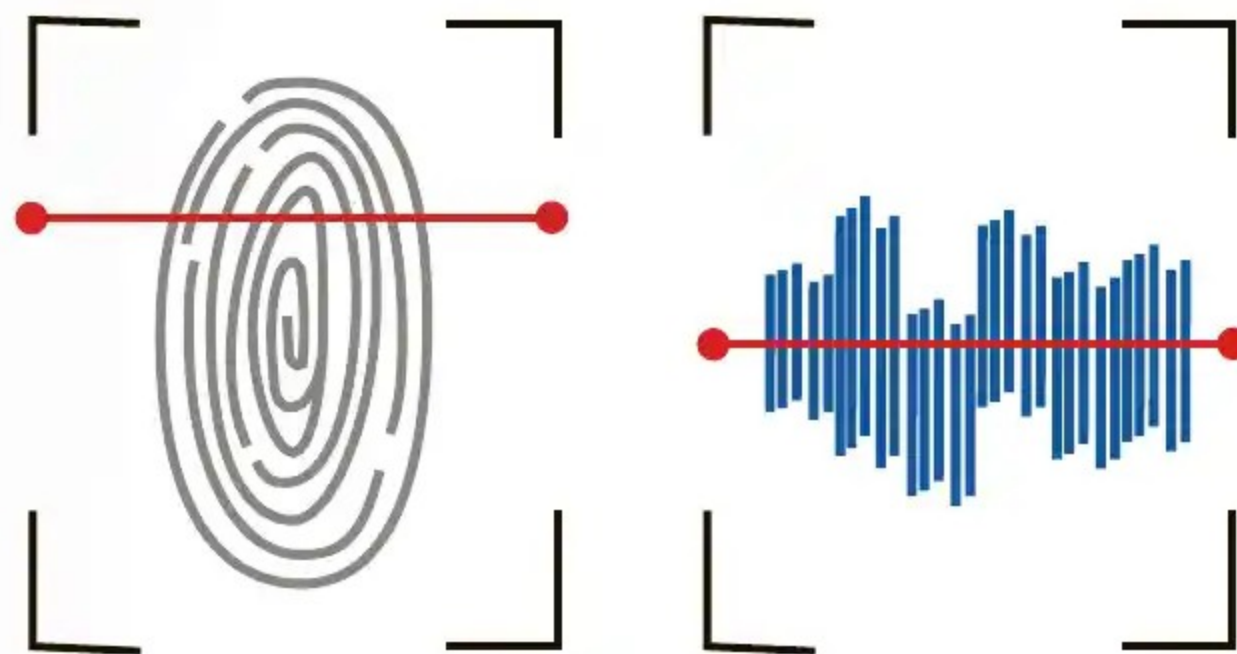
■ Users often do not fully understand what they're consenting to when their data is collected

■ Weak authentication protocols is a major challenge for e-KYC providers



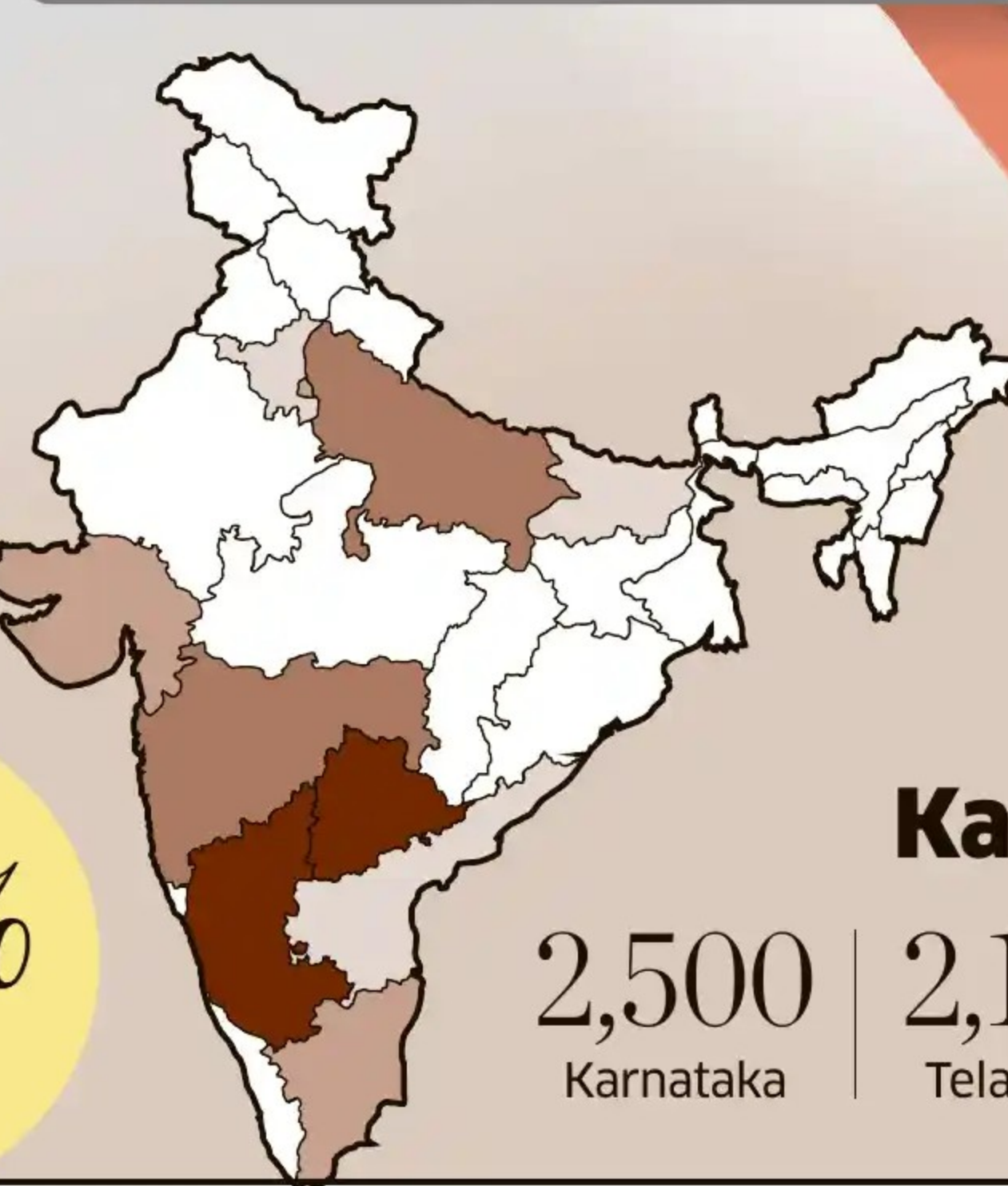
Face

Eyes



Fingerprint

Voice



Karnataka tops identity theft and data breach chart (2025)*



*Data projected based on NCRB data and trends from 14C

KYC-related frauds in India

Identity theft

Identity theft happens when someone uses your personal information, like your social security number or address, to access accounts or open new ones without permission. They often get this information through scams or data leaks.

Synthetic identity fraud

This type of KYC fraud involves making up a fake identity using both real and fake information. These made-up identities can often pass early security checks, so they

are hard to spot.

Document fraud

This involves using fake, changed or stolen documents to pass KYC checks. New technology makes it easier for criminals to create fake documents that look real. This can pass normal security checks.

Impersonation

In this method, criminals pretend to be someone else, often using stolen ID documents. They usually go after people with good credit or valuable assets to steal money.

Tactics employed in KYC scams

Phishing

Scammers frequently send fake emails or SMS messages that appear to come from trusted companies, trying to fool people into sharing personal details or login information.

Deepfakes

Thanks to advances in AI, scammers can produce convincing fake audio or video clips, fooling companies into thinking they are verifying a genuine customer during KYC checks.

Social engineering

This method tricks people into ignoring normal security rules.

Scammers might use pretexting, where they invent a fake story to get information, or baiting, where they offer something tempting to steal personal data.

Malware and ransomware

Hackers use malicious software to break into company systems, enabling them to steal personal identity data or demand a ransom to return it.

Website and app cloning

Fraudsters create fake copies of real financial websites or apps to steal personal and financial details from unsuspecting users.

Shadow libraries, from Page 1

'Legal remedies cannot work in isolation from policy reforms'

The order relies on precedent from *UTV Software v 1337x.to*, originally framed to address entertainment piracy platforms, not educational access systems. Sci-Hub's large repository, its public stance against copyright, and its promotion of mirror sites were all cited as evidence for its classification as "rogue."

However, the judgment does not engage with user intent or educational purpose.

Unlike torrent platforms that monetise through ads or subscriptions, Sci-Hub is non-commercial and has a user base composed primarily of researchers, students and educators. This distinction between sharing for profit and sharing for access is crucial but absent from the ruling.

Moreover, there is no proportionality analysis. Articles 21 and 21A of the Indian Constitution guarantee the rights to life and education, respectively, both of which have been interpreted to include access to knowledge. Yet the Court does not weigh how blocking these platforms might undermine those rights, particular-

ly for students and scholars dependent on them for academic work.

This absence is particularly striking in light of the *University of Oxford v Rameshwari Photocopy Services* case in which the Delhi High Court upheld the legality of distributing educational coursepacks. The Court had ruled that copying for educational use fell within the "fair dealing" clause under Section 52(1)(i) of the Copyright Act. A similar rationale could have invited a more nuanced view of how researchers use Sci-Hub not as pirates, but as learners navigating structural scarcity.

Who profits from paywalls?

The backdrop to this conflict is the global concentration of academic publishing power. As per an article published in the *Guardian* a year ago, the combined annual revenues of the "big five" academic publishers, Elsevier, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, Springer Nature and Sage, run into the billions, with some reporting profit margins approaching 40%. Their business model relies on a paradox: they acquire



content and peer review labour for free, yet sell access to institutions and readers at high margins.

Meanwhile, India spends an estimated Rs 1,500 crore annually on journal subscriptions, and still cannot ensure access

for all its research institutions. Many smaller universities, independent scholars and even some teaching hospitals are locked out. Shadow libraries rose in this context, not to subvert the system, but to patch its failures.

What is concerning is the lack of public infrastructure to replace them, and the absence of will to confront the publishing oligopoly's power.

A partial solution

In an effort to address access inequality, the Indian government proposed the One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS) initiative in 2023. The plan aims to negotiate national-level access to academic journals and make them available to all publicly funded institutions. With a projected budget of Rs 6,000 crore over three years, ONOS could significantly broaden legal access.

Yet concerns persist. ONOS entrenches reliance on the same global publishers, without investing in sustainable alternatives. It does not address Article Processing Charges, the fees that researchers must now pay to publish open-access articles, nor does it support Diamond Open Access, where publishing and reading are both free.

Additionally, ONOS does little for

non-institutional users: independent researchers, small libraries or students outside the public university system. Without complementary investment in national repositories and indigenous publishing infrastructure, ONOS risks becoming a short-term bandage—not a structural fix.

The Sci-Hub case has triggered conversations that go beyond legal compliance. At its core, the issue is not just copyright infringement — it is about how knowledge circulates, who controls it, and who gets to participate in producing and accessing it.

India's ambition to be a global research leader cannot be fulfilled while a significant portion of its scholars remain locked out of essential resources. If academic progress depends on the ability to pay, then research will remain the preserve of the already privileged. Legal remedies cannot work in isolation from policy reforms that ensure open, equitable access to learning.

(Shaltee Basu is an advocate practising in Bengaluru and New Delhi)

NEW ORDER

- Rule will apply to private association, society, trust, club, body of individuals, whether registered or not
- Permission will be required for any 'procession or rally', which includes a congregation of over 10 persons
- Marriage and funeral gatherings are exempted
- Police commissioner/deputy commissioner will be 'competent authority' to issue permits

Permit must, says govt order as RSS plans marches

Organisations must apply for permission 3 days in advance

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah administration issued an order on Saturday making “prior permission” mandatory for any private organisation, association or a group of persons to use government property or premises.

The order came as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) announced patha-sanchalana or route marches in parts of the state on Sunday.

While it does not specifically name RSS, the order contains enough provisions to impact the activities of the Hindu nationalist organisation, including its route marches.

The order is based on a Cabinet decision on Thursday, prompted by Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge's petition seeking a ban RSS activities in public places. Permission to use government premises must be sought three days before a programme or event, the order states. This will apply to any private association, society, trust, club, body of individuals or any other entity, whether registered or not.

Permission will be required for any 'procession or rally', which includes a congregation of over 10 persons, accompanied by music, having “a common object to carry on



An RSS march in Hassan district. DH PHOTO

Rajanna: Will namaz need permission?

Casting doubts on the government's curbs on RSS activities, Congress legislator KN Rajanna sought to know if it would require Muslims to get permission for namaz at Idgah or on roads. **Details on Page 6**

Surya offers PDO legal help

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya said he has offered to “personally appear” on behalf of PDO Praveen Kumar to challenge his “illegal” suspension for attending an RSS event. **Details on Page 6**

a common movement or route march passing through a government property”. Marriage and funeral gatherings are exempted. **► RSS, Page 4**

Decision today on allowing RSS Chittapur march

KALABURAGI, DHNS: Officials were in a fix over allowing the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) route march in Chittapur, the home constituency of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge, on Sunday. A final decision is likely to be taken on Sunday.

Dalit organisation Bhim Army has also sought permission to hold a parallel protest march condemning the abusive language against the minister, prompting officials to buy time on the issue.

Meanwhile, tahsildar Nagayya Hiremath has asked RSS leaders to resubmit an application seeking permission for the route march after imposing certain conditions.

The officer sought the report from the police about the impact of these events on law and order.

“I have asked RSS to apply again after fulfilling 5-6 conditions. Opinion of the police has been sought after Bhim Army also applied for permission for a march. The decision may be taken on Sunday,” he said.

► Chittapur, Page 4

'Tax revenue of B'luru corpsns will be spent locally'

DyCM says ORR IT-BT firms' property taxes only for East corporation

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar announced Saturday that tax revenue collected within each Bengaluru municipal corporation will now be spent in the same area, a major shift from the earlier practice.

Accordingly, property tax revenue generated by the IT-BT sector along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) will now be used for the development of



Deputy CM D K Shivakumar listens to grievances by the public during the 'Bengaluru Nadige' on Saturday. DH PHOTO

the newly formed Bengaluru East Corporation, which he described as the “richest corporation in the entire state”.

Addressing reporters after hearing citizens' grievances during the ongoing 'Ben-

galuru Nadige' campaign in TC Palya, KR Puram, Shivakumar detailed his vision for decentralised governance and promised swift action on civic grievances, including regularisation of property records.

“Earlier, the tax income from this part (Bengaluru East) was used for the development of other parts of Bengaluru. Now, all resources concentrated here will be used for the development of the 50 wards of this corporation. This will provide better facilities to the IT sector and the citizens here.”

D K Shivakumar, Dy CM

The Bengaluru development minister highlighted that the new administrative structure, replacing the erstwhile BBMP with five corporations, would ensure that the tax collected stays within

the local jurisdiction. “The Bengaluru East Corporation, consisting of two Assembly constituencies KR Puram and Mahadevpura, is the richest in the state. It contributes around Rs 1,600 crore out of the city's total tax collection of Rs 6,000 crore,” he stated.

Shivakumar added the formation of the corporation aims to achieve comprehensive development in this IT-centric part of the city. “Earlier, the tax income from this part was used for the development of other parts of Bengaluru. Now, all resources concentrated here will be used for the development of the 50 wards of this corporation. This will provide better facilities to the IT sector and the citizens here,” he promised.

► DKS, Page 4

Cricketers among many killed in Pak strikes on Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan launched fresh air strikes targeting terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan, killing several people, including three cricketers, casting a shadow over the expected talks in Doha amid a fragile ceasefire that had temporarily halted hostilities between the two sides.

The strikes followed a gun-and-bomb attack by terrorists at a military installation in North Waziristan, and just hours after Islamabad and Kabul extended their two-day ceasefire, the Dawn reported on Saturday.

Three players (Kabeer, Sibghatullah and Haroon) alongside five other fellow countrymen from Urgan district were killed in the attacks, while seven others were injured, ACB said in a statement issued on Saturday.

Following the incident, the Afghanistan Cricket Board has decided to withdraw from participating in the upcoming Tri-Nation T20I Series involving Pakistan, scheduled to be played in late November.

There was no statement from Pakistan's military, but the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had claimed responsibility for the early Friday attack on Khaddi Fort in Mir Ali.

The security sources said they foiled the attack by eliminating all four attackers without suffering any loss.

Pakistan late Friday targeted the Angoor Adda region and also hideouts across Afghanistan's Urgan and Barmal districts of Paktika province, as security sources claimed that precision strikes were conducted against hideouts of the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group, reportedly killing dozens of fighters, the paper said.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board claimed that three cricketers from Urgan district were killed in the strike on Paktika Province.

Pakistani security sources pointed out that the ceasefire agreement between the Afghan government and Pakistan did not preclude strikes on terror outfits.

Every inch of Pak within BrahMos range: Rajnath

SANJAY PANDEY & KALYAN RAY
LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI, DHNS

In yet another warning to India's western neighbour, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday that entire Pakistan was within the range of BrahMos missile and what happened during Operation Sindoor was just a “trailer”.

“Every inch of the neighbouring country is within the range of the BrahMos cruise missile... Operation Sindoor was a trailer (of a film), which had made Pakistan realise if India could give birth to Pakistan, then when time comes, it could also... I don't need to explain it,” he said while flagging off a dispatch of the first batch of the missiles manufactured at the new BrahMos Aerospace Unit in Lucknow.

Besides Rajnath, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was present on the occasion.

Following the successful



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flags off the first batch of BrahMos missiles from the Lucknow manufacturing unit. PTI

“Every inch of the neighbouring country is within the range of the BrahMos cruise missile... Operation Sindoor was a trailer (of a film), which had made Pakistan realise if India could give birth to Pakistan, then when time comes, it could also... I don't need to explain it.”

Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister

use of the missile during the India-Pakistan hostilities in May, India's top political leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

have spoken multiple times on how BrahMos penetrated the neighbouring nation's air defence to strike at its key military assets.

“The missile features a traditional warhead and an advanced guidance system and possesses the capability to strike long distances at supersonic speeds. This combination of speed, accuracy, and power makes BrahMos one of the best systems in the world. It has become the backbone of our armed forces,” Rajnath added.

► Rajnath, Page 4

Telangana shuts down over 42% BC quota demand

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Telangana came to a standstill on Saturday as backward classes associations called for a statewide bandh demanding 42% reservations for the community. All major political parties, including the ruling Congress and the Opposition BRS and BJP, actively participated in the protests across the state. **Details on Page 8**

8 killed as vehicle falls into gorge

MUMBAI, DHNS: Eight persons died and 15 others were injured when a pickup truck carrying pilgrims fell into a gorge at Chand-shaili Ghat in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra on Friday night. The mishap occurred near Makad Tekdi in the Dhadgaon-Taloda area, under the jurisdiction of the Shahada police station. Nandurbar police have registered a case. **Details on Page 8**

It's I.N.D.I.A vs I.N.D.I.A on many Bihar seats

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

With the last day of filing nominations for the first phase of election for 121 seats over on October 17, the Mahagat-bandhan, the Bihar avatar of I.N.D.I.A bloc, appears to be in tatters.



More than fighting the NDA rivals, the I.N.D.I.A bloc candidates appear to be fighting against their own allies in as many as seven constituencies going to polls on November 6.

In what could be considered a poor show of unity and complete disregard for each other, the grouping will see the Congress fighting against the RJD at Lalganj in Vaishali district. The Mahagatbandhan's undeclared chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav has fielded Shivani Shukla, daughter of former MLA from Lalganj, Munna Shukla. The Congress has fielded Aditya Kumar from the constituency which was once a Congress citadel.

JMM to go it alone in Bihar

The JMM on Saturday announced that it will contest six seats in the Bihar polls independently, and said the party would “review” its alliance with the Congress and RJD in Jharkhand after the elections in the neighbouring state.

But then, the Congress is not alone to be blamed. The CPI too has shown utter disregard for the ‘alliance dharma’ and fielded its candidate Mohit Paswan from Rajapakar despite being aware of the fact that Congress has retained its sitting MLA Pratibha Das from the reserved constituency.

In a tit for tat move, the Congress too has fielded Prakash Das from Bachhwara, although the CPI had already nominated former MLA Awadhesh Rai, who lost the 2020 Assembly poll by a slender margin of 484 votes to Surendra Mehta of BJP.

► Bihar, Page 4

ALL LIT UP



Ram Ki Paidi illuminated during a laser show organised on the banks of the Saryu river ahead of Deepavali, in Ayodhya, on Saturday. PTI

Accused stabs cop to death on way to station

HYDERABAD, DHNS: A constable was stabbed to death by a habitual offender in Nizamabad on Friday night. The deceased, constable E Pramod (42) of Nizamabad's Central Crime Station (CCS), had gone to Hashmi Colony with his nephew to appre-

hend Sheikh Riyaz (24), who was accused of stealing a two-wheeler.

After being detained, Riyaz was made to sit between Pramod, who was riding in the motorcycle, and his nephew. According to the police, when they were nearing

Vinayaknagar, Riyaz allegedly stabbed the constable in the chest and attacked his nephew.

CCS Sub-Inspector Vitthal reached the spot and rushed the injured duo to a hospital where doctors declared Pramod brought dead. **Page 7**

In high demand, soaring silver keeps B'luru buyers waiting

SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

With prices hitting record highs, jewellery stores in Bengaluru are limiting sales of silver bars and coins, and imposing wait times ranging up to months.

Jewellers say the soaring prices are also prompting many buyers to opt for a mix of gold and silver as an investment strategy. Some are even selling their jewellery to cash in on the record rates, although it is typically considered “inauspicious” during the festive season.

On Saturday, jewellery shops across the city reported slightly higher footfall due to Dhanteras but most customers looked to buy silver instead of gold.

A manager at a Jos Alukkas store noted a shift in consumer mindset.



NOW TRENDING

- Rising prices prompting buyers to opt for mix of gold & silver
- Many prefer to buy raw silver in the form of bars or coins
- Purchases are increasingly seen as investment
- Branded stores have implemented a purchase limit
- Some sellers are imposing wait times
- Gap between supply & demand widened due to high demand
- Supply has remained relatively stable

“Customers are opting to buy silver instead of gold. Many prefer to buy raw silver in the form of bars or coins rather than the typical jewellery. This trend reflects a shift in mindset, where purchases are increasingly seen as investment opportunities rather than purely

cultural obligations.”

Due to a shortage of raw silver (bars or coins), branded stores have implemented a purchase limit per customer to manage their stock, the manager said.

While wholesale and traditional vendors do not have such strict

limitations, some are imposing wait times ranging from days to months. This delay is dependent on the amount of silver purchased and the availability of raw silver in relation to demand, said Srinivas R, Secretary of the Jewellers' Association Bangalore.

The gap between the supply and demand for raw silver has widened because demand has increased significantly in recent years, while supply has remained relatively stable, he added.

Srinivas also noted a surge in the sale of silver jewellery and maintained that the gap between supply and demand of raw silver has not stopped anyone from making purchases.

“There is a long wait time between the purchase and delivery of raw silver due to the high demand,” he told *DH*. “Despite this, people

prefer waiting for the delivery of raw silver after booking or paying for it, as they know it is a good investment.”

He clarified that raw silver had a gap in supply, but silver ornaments are easily available and widely bought, he said.

Srinivas further noted that shoppers were strategically mixing gold and silver purchases. “People are balancing sentiment with practicality. They want to celebrate, but also invest wisely,” he said.

Saumen Bhaumik, MD of CaratLane, said while soaring prices usually discourage buyers, there is now a tilt towards lightweight, versatile jewellery. “Customers prefer aesthetically appealing designs with lower karat options such as 9kt and 14kt. The emotional connection to design seems to outweigh price sensitivity.”

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'WRONG PRIORITIES'

Underground project in tender stage, Metro stuck in approvals

Tunnel road vs Metro: Same alignment, varied work speeds

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

In March 2022, Karnataka announced a 36.59-km Metro line connecting Hebbal to Sarjapur, linking Bengaluru's tech hub to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The project, part of Phase 3A expansion, is expected to serve over 6.21 lakh passengers daily, offering interchanges with multiple metro lines.

Nearly three years later, the state government also proposed a 16.74-km tunnel road along the same stretch to ease traffic congestion.

Unlike the metro, the tunnel road project has moved swiftly. Authorities completed the draft DPR in just three months and finalised it within the next four. Tendering began in July 2025 and is likely to conclude by year-end.

While the tunnel road — designed for around 1 lakh vehicles a day — is racing ahead, the metro line with a much longer shelf life — remains stuck in the approval process.

The DPR of the Rs 28,405-crore project is undergoing review over its 'steep' cost estimates, after it was turned down by the Centre.

Noting that the metro corridor and the tunnel road run "almost parallel to each other," an expert committee reviewing the tunnel road had noted that the DPR did not justify how it will attract enough traffic to stay viable.

In particular, the committee questioned the feasibility of the project, stating that the tunnel road DPR did not take into account the diversion of traffic to other competing modes of transport, including metro.

"The general apprehension of stakeholders is that the road tunnel project on proposed alignment will become redundant. This apprehension could not be addressed in the absence of data," the committee, led by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd executive director S Hegaraddi, said.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is steering the project, was apparently convinced with the idea of building the tunnel road to de-



Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar during a visit to the tunnel road in Mumbai.

congest traffic after inspecting similar projects in Mumbai.

The project eventually received the consent of the state government as it was proposed under public-private partnership even as the government would still spend about Rs 7,000 crore as its share of funding.

16 traffic bottlenecks

The 16.75-km tunnel road, besides connecting Silk Board and Hebbal, will have a total of 16 entry and exit ramps.

All these ramps — longer than the tunnel itself — are expected to create potential bottlenecks for tunnel users and non-users alike as they join the existing traffic junctions.

These concerns have also been shared by the expert committee. "It is noted that efforts have been made to locate the entry/exit ramps in the vicinity of existing signal-controlled junctions to avoid traffic conflicts to the extent possible. However, the introduction of entry/exit ramps may cause traffic congestion due to the merging of traffic emerging from the tunnel with surface traffic," the report pointed out, suggesting improvement of

roads, if required by widening them, to avoid congestions.

Further, the committee found the DPR did not have a land acquisition plan for the 17 km of approach ramps nor estimated the actual land needed at these entry and exit points for widening of roads.

Rajukumar Dugar, convener of Citizens for Citizens, who has analysed the tunnel road DPR, said the average length of these ramps is about 1 km.

"So, whatever time saved on the tunnel, which could be about 10-15 minutes, will be lost in detours, U-turns and waiting at toll plazas," he said. He felt only about 50,000 to 1 lakh car users may use the tolled-road owing to affordability.

In his research paper, Prof Ashish Verma of the Indian Institute of Science highlighted the dangers of prioritising private vehicle infrastructure over mass transit, while noting that no amount of car-centric solutions will address decongesting the city.

"Tunnel roads encourage car usage, increasing congestion, pollution and environmental degradation. The project also faces flood vulnerability, lacks

resilience during extreme weather and poses safety risks," he said, urging the government to prioritize mass transit projects such as metro and suburban railway corridor.

Cost and time overrun

As per the plan, the tunnel road costs about Rs 17,800 crore. While the government will bear 40% of the cost, a private concessionaire is required to bear the rest, which comes to Rs 11,000 crore. To attract bidders, the government has offered to charge a toll of Rs 19 per km, as well as revenue from advertising, naming rights and parking/retail spaces at intermodal hubs. It also set a four-year deadline for the project.

However, the government-constituted committee has expressed concerns over potential time and cost overruns, citing the city's complex geology and flood vulnerability. It said only minimal geological and geotechnical investigations were done, warning that more extensive studies are needed.

"The project schedule assumes a monthly progress of 150 metres, but metro tunnelling averages only 100 metres

Companies keen to take up project

- Adani
- Vishwa Samudra
- NCC
- IRB Infrastructure
- Dilip Buildcon
- Ashoka Buildcon

Land acquisition plan

Koramangala - (St John's Medical College)

10.33 acres

Lalbagh

5.88 acres

Race Course (includes land of prison dept head office, High Grounds fire station, Maharani Cluster University, Freedom Park, Bannappa Park)

10.9 acres

Mehkri Circle (Palace Grounds)

7.2 acres

Hebbal (Defence land, government land, BDA and private properties)

22 acres

DCM orders action against RO who 'demanded' bribe for 'A' Khata

Promises to address
KR Puram Santhe
problem

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday instructed officials to conduct a quick investigation and take action against a Revenue Officer (RO) and a middleman in KR Puram who demanded a bribe to issue "A" khata.

He ordered action against Basavaraj, the RO, after a citizen named Sultan Mirza spoke about the difficulty in getting the khata and about the bribe demand during a public interaction as part of the 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme in KR Puram.

"Investigate this and take action against guilty officials before the end of the day," the DCM told the commissioner of Bengaluru East Corporation.

Shivakumar reiterated the government's plan to issue "A" Khata certificates to those who currently hold "B" khata or no khatas. "This is our government's Deepavali gift. Those who have "B" khatas and those who do not have them will be given "A" khatas if they pay a fee of Rs 500 and 5% of the property value," he announced.

Among the specific civic issues raised during the 'citizen dialogue,' the relocation of the centuries-old KR Puram Santhe (market) was a key concern. "I will check the place where

the Santhe is held and also check where it can be moved, as it is becoming a problem due to the increase in population," he assured the public.

He also addressed the surge in illegal constructions and road encroachments in the KR Puram area, warning that illegally constructed buildings would be razed as per the Supreme Court directive. He emphasised the importance of getting building plans approved, even as a temporary exemption for OC (Occupancy Certificate) and CC (Commencement Certificate) has been given for 30x40 buildings.

The public meeting saw a moment of high drama when a woman alleged she had not received her 'Gruha Lakshmi' money for six months.

Shivakumar, on the spot, cross-checked her mobile with his personal secretary. The inquiry revealed that the July payment had been credited to her account in October, exposing the allegation as false. "The allegation made by this woman is false. The money was paid up to July, and the payment for the month of August is in the process of payment," he confirmed to the gathering.

The deputy CM reiterated a zero-tolerance policy against threats and extortion, following a resident's complaint about a neighbour threatening him with the help of rowdies and an organisation to extort Rs 10 lakh. "Whether they belong to any organisation, Congress, BJP or JD(S), I will take legal action without hesitation," he said, instructing the complainant to file a police complaint immediately.



Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar interacts with citizens during his 'Walk with Bengaluru' programme in KR Puram on Saturday. PHOTO/DCMO

BBA student ends life over 'harassment by senior'

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a suspected case of harassment and blackmail, a 19-year-old student died by suicide at her home in Bagalur, North-east Bengaluru, on Friday.

The deceased, Sana Parveen, was a second-year BBA student at a private college and stayed with three friends at Bidarahalli.

Police have registered a case of abetment to suicide against her senior Refaas, a native of Thrissur, Kerala.

The victim's father, a civil contractor from Madikeri, alleged in a police complaint that she had told them about the senior harassing her.

The senior, who had graduated from the same college, allegedly tortured and blackmailed her.

Parveen had complained to the college faculty, who are said to have summoned Refaas and warned him to stay away from her. However, he continued blackmailing her. Unable to bear it, Parveen ended her life by hanging in a room.

However, police found no suicide note.

The suspect is currently absconding and efforts are on to nab him, the police added.

(If you are experiencing thoughts of self-harm and suicide, please reach out to the 14416 TeleMANAS helpline for support.)

Vokkaligas demand govt to name metro after Kempegowda

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The Vishwa Vokkaligara Maha Vedike has called for "Namma Metro" to be renamed as "Namma Kempegowda Metro."

Members of the Vokkaliga community gathered at VV Puram College of Science on Saturday, urging the state government to change the name of the metro system.

The call has been made in light of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent announcements to name the project after prominent Kannada figures Basavanna and Valmiki, at the valedictory ceremony of the "Basava Culture Campaign 2025" on October 5 and Valmiki Jayanti celebrations

on October 7, respectively.

"The announcement by the chief minister was unfair. He had, in fact, made a promise 10 years ago to consider naming the metro Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro. But when the name Namma Metro was finalised, we were okay with it as it was a neutral name. But now, when there are talks about renaming the metro after Valmiki and Basavanna, we're just reminding the government about their promise," said Ashwath Narayana Gowda, general secretary of the association.

A press note released by the association read, "Basavanna is the pioneer of Kannada culture and Valmiki is a his-

torian, but the father of this beautiful city, the one who actually built it, is Nadaprabhu Kempegowda... Kempegowda is a secularist who has provided opportunities to the people of all castes and religions. We are requesting the chief minister not to give in to political pressure and make empty promises to everyone who asks. He should carefully consider and name the existing metro as 'Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Metro.'"

General Secretary of State Vokkaligara Sangha, T Konappa Reddy, and Kenchappa Gowda, president of the state association, were also present at the gathering, along with Uday B Garudachar, Chickpet MLA.

Three from Tamil Nadu arrested for attempting to peddle fake notes

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jayanagar police have arrested three people from Tamil Nadu for allegedly attempting to peddle fake notes in the city.

The arrested are Rajeswaran M, 43, Sheikh Mohammed, 40, and Miran Mohiuddin, 37, all from Tirunelveli, where counterfeit currency note rackets are more rampant, police said.

According to police, on the afternoon of October 13, they were informed that some individuals from a different state had entered the city to exchange Rs 30 lakh worth of counterfeit notes for Rs 10 lakh in genuine notes.

A police team reached Jayanagar 4th T Block and



The recovery made by the police.

surrounded a Tata Altroz car in which the suspects were waiting for their customer. The plainclothes policemen revealed to them that they were from law enforcement and searched the car.

They found an American Tourister travel bag containing 31 original notes of Rs 500

denomination. The rest were all pieces of paper. Police then impounded the car, seized the notes and the bag, and arrested the men.

"They had come here looking to cheat people. They spread the word that they had fake notes that were close to the originals. They would show real Rs 500 notes to their customers, making them believe that they were fake. Then, during the exchange, they would layer the top of the suitcase with the authentic Rs 500 notes and fill the rest of the bag with white paper pieces," a police officer told DH.

The suspects have been booked under BNS Section 318 (cheating).

20-yr-old found dead in lodge room, female friend left earlier

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 20-year-old man from Dakshina Kannada was found dead under mysterious circumstances in a lodge in southern Bengaluru on Friday.

P Thakshith, from Puttur, had checked into a lodge in Maruthi Nagar along with a female friend from Virajpet, Kodagu, on October 9, and stayed there for eight days.

On the evening of October 17, the woman checked out alone while Thakshith was found dead a few hours later. Lodge staff found him in a sleeping posture with a blanket covering him and called the

Madiwala police.

Police investigations revealed that the couple had informed the lodge staff that they had come for college-related work and paid the room rent daily. Both studied at a college in Mangaluru.

"They ordered food from the outside and complained of food poisoning. They had bought medicines from a medical store and recovered," a police officer investigating the case said.

"It appears to be natural death but we're awaiting the post-mortem report to ascertain the exact cause," the officer added.

Canara Bank marathon on Nov 23

BENGALURU, DHNS: Canara Bank on Saturday announced the third edition of Canara Bank Marathon 2025, focused on promoting unity, health and happier lifestyle among citizens.

The occasion also observed the unveiling of the official Canara Bank Marathon T-shirt at bank's head office here.

The marathon will be held on Sunday, November 23. It will have 3K, 5K, and 10K runs, and is open to people from all

walks of life.

The 3K run is customised to create an inclusive experience for all, whether senior citizens or families, to experience the joy of running with loved ones.

K Satyanarayana Raju, MD&CEO, said: "The marathon is more than just a run, it is about fundamental part of our commitment to nurture a healthier and united India."

Participants can register on <https://www.canarabankmarathon.com/>.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Founder's Day, Third Biocontrol Expo-2025: H D Kumaraswamy, Shobha Karandlaje and Dr C N Manjunath participate: ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculture Insect Resources: ICAR-NBAIR Yelahanka; 11 am.

76th Anniversary of People's Republic of China, 75th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and China, Inauguration of Exhibition of Chinese Photographs: Ramalinga Reddy, Qin Jii, P G R Sindhia and K Sriniwasa Gowda to be present: India-China Friendship Association: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road; 10 am

CULTURAL

Music Concert: Vocals: Vinay Sharva, Violin: Venkatesh Joseygar G., Mridanga: Vinod Shyam Anur, Khanjira: Karthik R: Sri Thyagaraja Gana Sabha Trust, Venue: Balamohan Vidya Mandir, Rajajinagar; 5 pm.

Children's Vachana Mela: Vachana Gaana: Vachana Jyoti Balaga, Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 9:30 am

Kalotsava: Yakshagana Face Painting Workshop: Metty Ramachandra Rao, Gopalakrishna Bhat, Niduwaje, Ashwath Kulal Manjanadi, Sridhara Kanchan, Suresha Tantradi to be present: Karnataka Kala Darshini, Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 11 am

Drama: 'Beral Ge Koral'; Raghavendra S; Navararasam; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum 28.0°C

Minimum 21.7°C

Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) --

Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) 78%

Sunset (Oct 19) 5:59 pm

Sunrise (Oct 20) 6:10 am

Moonrise 3:31 am

Moonsset 4:00 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5:30 pm) Source: IMD

DH

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Social media post sparks debate on impact of ‘uncontrolled’ migration on city infra

BENGALURU, DHNS: A recent social media post has intensified the debate in the city over the impact of uncontrolled migration on Bengaluru’s failing infrastructure and the demand for job reservations for local Kannadigas.

Kannada activist Arun Javgal’s post, which quickly went viral, linked the city’s notorious traffic gridlock using the Hebbal flyover as a prime example of collapsed infrastructure directly to a “traffic nightmare” caused by an influx of migrants.

“When the Hebbal flyover opened in 2004-05, it was a matter of pride... But just two decades later, it has turned into a traffic nightmare. Why? Because no infrastructure can survive uncontrolled migration,” the post reads, asserting that “lakhs keep pouring into Bengaluru every year without any planning or limits,” straining essential resources like roads, drainage, housing and water supply, his post read.

Speaking to *DH*, he also highlighted the paradox of Karnataka heavily investing to attract industries while expecting little in return for the local population.

“Karnataka invests heavily to attract industries, providing land, power and infrastructure. So what’s wrong in expecting more employment for local Kannadigas

in return?” he asked.

He criticised Biocon chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and former Infosys CFO T V Mohandas Pai, as being “anti-Karnataka” for allegedly opposing the idea of reserving jobs for Kannadigas.

Javgal labelled the two as being representatives of “outsider dominance over Kannada Nadu,” claiming their focus on “profit matters more than the livelihoods of Kannadigas.”

“They forget that uncontrolled migration doesn’t just affect jobs, it strains our roads, housing, water, and quality of life,” he said, proposing that a “sensible local employment law” would help reduce migration pressure, protect infrastructure and create sustainable development.

The X post also took aim at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has previously spoken about giving priority jobs to local Kannadigas.

Javgal alleged the chief minister “went silent” the moment Shaw and Pai objected to the policy, suggesting that the state’s leadership is being dictated by Gujarati Kiran and Konkani Mohan, leading to a situation where “Kannadigas need approval from Gujarati Kiran Shaw and Konkani Mohandas Pai to get what is rightfully ours.”

Startup accelerator initiative to solve city's problems

BENGALURU, DHNS: Unboxing BLR has launched the ‘Namma Bengaluru Challenge ‘26, a startup accelerator, in partnership with WTFund and Social Alpha.

The initiative, with the aim of transforming the city into a living lab for climate innovation by identifying, funding and piloting cutting-edge urban solutions, is inviting innovators to pilot solutions addressing sustainable construction, air pollution, waste management and water and sanitation.

Selected winners will receive Rs 25 lakh each, along with an opportunity to access an additional Rs 1 crore to scale their innovations. The inaugural edition of the challenge was carried out in 2024.

The initiative is supported by the government of Karnataka and the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

“Bengaluru’s challenges are too complex for any one entity to solve alone. When we work collaboratively, combining administrative strength with private sector creativity and agility, then we unlock practical solutions that benefit every resident. This partnership is key to shaping a future-ready, livable Bengaluru,” said M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of GBA.

Top cop inspects traffic-prone junctions along ORR

BENGALURU, DHNS: State police chief M A Saleem on Friday visited several traffic-prone junctions in the eastern part of Bengaluru, focusing on the implementation of a plan to ease congestion.

Saleem, Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), and head of police force (HoPF), visited Bellandur, Devarabeesanahalli, Marathahalli and KR Puram junctions along the Outer Ring Road (ORR).

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh and other traffic officers accompanied him.

Saleem said fixing traffic problems was one of his main priorities after his previous focus on law and order issues in Karnataka. “We want to focus more on increasing the speed of vehicles to some extent and reducing journey time. This can be achieved by tweaking the signals, by slowing down the incoming vehicles. If you slow down vehicles coming into the city, for e.g. from Hoskote side, the situation here (inside the city) can be better. Earlier, we used to do a gating system. That will be done. This can give relief in some of the most congested junctions,” Saleem told *DH*.

He explained that in these traffic-prone junctions, more police personnel would be deployed, including specialised motor units like Cobra.

“We have requested four heavy-duty wreckers (towing trucks) from BMTC. So when their buses and other vehicles get into problems, they can be towed away. Strategic deployment would ensure that response time in case of breakdowns will be immediate,” Saleem said.

“I can say that the average speed at those junctions has dropped. We have spoken to motorists as well and learnt that the commuting time is not satisfactory,” the top officer added.

Tech titans should invest in improving city infra: Vatal

BENGALURU, DHNS: Citizens of Bengaluru, led by Vatal Nagaraj, Kannada activist and former MLA, held a bullock cart protest near the Kempegowda bus stand at Majestic on Saturday, seeking redress of issues like potholes, flooding and corruption in civic bodies.

“Bengaluru, once the pride of India, is drowning both literally and morally,” Nagaraj said during the protest, criticising Bescom, BWSSB and BDA for “failing” the city.

He pointed out that new layouts lack roads, water and basic amenities, claiming, “Everything moves only with money.”

Nagaraj also called on IT and biotech leaders like Mohandas Pai, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, N R Narayana Murthy and Azim Premji to contribute to infrastructure restoration rather than just complain about the city’s civic woes.

He warned that if no measures were taken to improve the road infrastructure, they would call for a Bengaluru shutdown (bandh) soon.

Potholes natural after rains, B’luru traffic management better than other cities: Home minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Saturday said potholes were a “natural phenomenon” after rains and constant criticism of the government was not right.

His remarks came in response to recent comments and criticisms from IT giants regarding infrastructure issues like potholes in Bengaluru.

He was speaking at the flag-off ceremony for 50 new 350cc Honda bikes, worth Rs 1.3 crore, for the Quick Response Team (QRT) at the Vidhana Soudha.

Parameshwara then highlighted the success of the Global Investors’ Meet (GIM) held last February, where people from

various countries participated and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 10.22 lakh crore were signed.

“Already, Rs 3 lakh crore to Rs 4 lakh crore is being invested; the process is ongoing. Is it not a good place? Is it not a good ecosystem for industries?” he said.

He insisted that Bengaluru’s traffic management is in a better state compared to Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi.

The home minister was impressed with the bikes gifted by the Honda India Foundation to enhance the Bengaluru Traffic Police’s (BTP) quick response capabilities.

“These bikes are so good that I felt like riding one. Maybe, I will, in the coming days,” he remarked.



Traffic policemen get ready to zip off on bikes, donated by Honda company as part of its CSR activities, in front of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday.

DH PHOTO/KRISHNAKUMAR P S

He emphasised the push towards faster response times, citing the city’s new Rs 26-crore command centre.

Drawing a parallel with international policing, Parameshwara said, “When I visited Lon-

don Metropolitan Command Centre, the police response time was within five to seven minutes. Even in our city, we aim for the same quick response of 5-7 minutes.”

He acknowledged the daunting challenge of regulating traffic, pointing out that Bengaluru has “more than 70 lakh two-wheelers,” which makes traffic regulation particularly demanding.

The event also marked the launch of a new feature within the BTP ASTraM app: the E-Accident Report.

“Every day, each of our traffic stations receives 3-4 requests from citizens for accident acknowledgments for insurance purposes, amounting to 150-200 requests citywide,” said an official, explaining the need for the digital solution.

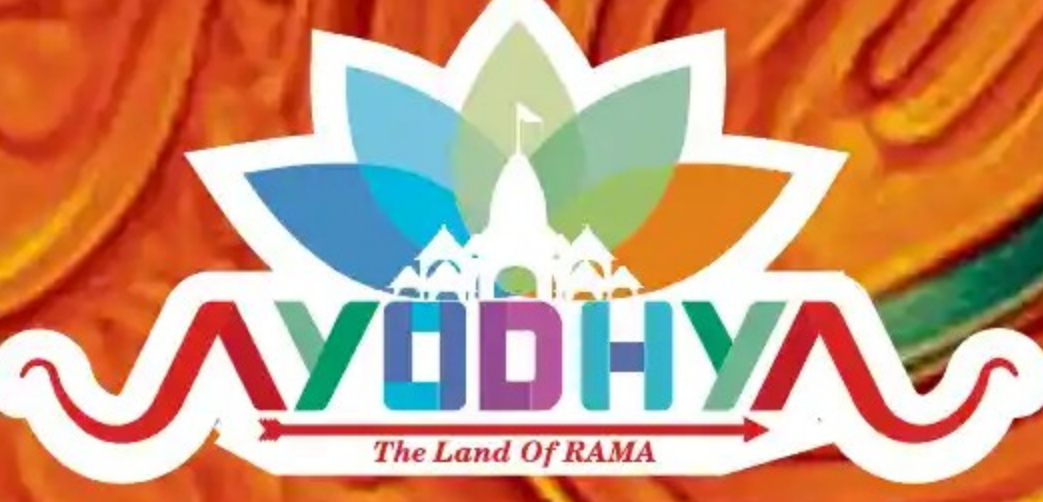
Previously, citizens involved in minor accidents not requiring an FIR had to visit a police station to submit a report and get an acknowledgment for insurance claims, causing “stress and time loss.”

The new feature, ‘Introducing E-Accident Report on BTP ASTraM App’, allows citizens to: Report accident, upload photos, get acknowledgment and submit to insurance.

This digital process ensures ‘No visit, no queues, no follow-ups’ and provides immediate acknowledgment for first-party insurance claims, significantly benefiting citizens.



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19 अक्टूबर, 2025 | श्रीअयोध्या धाम

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In the august presence of

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Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Surya Pratap Shahi
Minister, Agriculture, Agricultural Education & Agricultural Research, Uttar Pradesh

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Jayveer Singh
Minister, Tourism & Culture, Uttar Pradesh

and other dignitaries

Date:
19th October, 2025
Time: 5:00 PM onwards

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- Grand processions, tableaux, and exhibitions depicting the divine life of Bhagwan Shri Ram
- Staging of national and international Rameela
- Performances by Folk Troupes from Across India
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Golden rule for money recovery: Report online fraud in golden hour

People lost Rs 1,261 cr to digital scamsters in last one year

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru city police data reveals that citizens collectively lost a staggering Rs 1,261 crore to various forms of online fraud till August 2025. What is alarming is that despite swift responses in several cases, the recovery rate remains abysmally low — only about 4% of the stolen money has been traced and returned.

According to data, accessed by *DH*, while the number of cybercrime cases has seen a slight dip this year compared to the last two years (see box), the detection ratio continues to remain poor.

Investment frauds — particularly those linked to online trading platforms and fake

stock investment schemes — have shown a marked rise, alongside scams involving bogus job offers.

Conversely, crimes related to digital arrests and credit card fraud have shown a downward trend.

However, 'miscellaneous' cyber offences such as posting abusive or anti-social content on social media and fake customer care scams continue to be widespread.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told *DH* that one of the key challenges to detecting cyber fraud is the timely reporting of the crime.

"Delay in reporting makes it harder to trace the transactions because money is quickly transferred across multiple

Online fraud cases

Years	Reported cases	Detected	Amount lost	Amount freezed	Amount recovered	Amount returned to the victims	Arrested accused
2023	17,697	4,882	680 cr	321 cr	90.31 cr	88.86 cr	458
2024	17,693	2,303	1,995 cr	917 cr	170 cr	156 cr	479
2025	7,051	298	1,261 cr	138 cr	46 cr	33 cr	312

accounts. Timely intervention will help police launch investigations immediately." He added that presenting technical evidence in court also poses several significant challenges.

A senior officer with the cybercrime police told *DH* that despite increased public awareness, cybercriminals continue to outsmart victims through sophisticated methods, often leveraging artificial intelligence tools.

"In a recent case, BJP leader Dr K Sudhakar's wife lost Rs 14 lakh to cyber fraudsters. The caller posed as an officer from the Mumbai Cyber Crime Department, claiming her credentials had been misused to obtain a credit card," the officer said.

"We were alerted within the golden hour, tracked the bank accounts to which the money was transferred, it was then frozen and we soon managed to recover the amount. But in most cases, the accused operate from abroad using fake KYCs and mule bank accounts, which makes it difficult to apprehend them," explained the officer.

In another high-profile case, a former MLA from Bidar district lost 31 lakh in a digital arrest scam.

The accused, traced to a goshala where he was working, fled the spot before police could detain him.

"The money had already been credited to the goshala's bank account and due to technical glitches, we couldn't re-

cover it," the officer said.

AI-based tools to track fraud networks

Another officer said cyber-crime investigators had also started using AI-based tools to detect and track fraud networks. "We can't reveal the modus operandi, but technology is being used on both sides — by criminals and by investigators. In some instances, victims themselves delete crucial information, making the investigation harder," he noted.

Police have urged citizens to immediately report any suspected cybercrime within the 'golden hour' — the critical window during which investigators can alert banks and freeze fraudulent transactions.

GST cuts to result in extra electronics...

Vaishnav, From Page 3

Separately, while addressing a media event here, Vaishnav said the government will bring out a regulation on deepfakes soon.

Stating that artificial intelligence (AI) is mostly being used in a positive way, the minister said there is a need to save the society from the significant harms posed by AI-generated deepfakes.

He said the government is taking a techno-legal approach for building a framework to check deepfakes.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT had in March 2024 issued an advisory to curb potential harm from AI, especially deepfakes, under the IT Rules 2021.

Vaishnav further said chips are key for building AI infrastructure and two semiconductor units, CG Semi and Kaynes, have started production in the country.

He said most complex chips are now being designed in the country. "Earlier it used to be 5 nanometres, 7 nanometres. Now 2-nanometre chips are here; they are the most complex of chips, the smallest. Those are now designed in India," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Publics are hereby informed that my client **M/s DS-MAX Properties Pvt. Ltd.**, having its office at No. 1794, 14th Main, 30th Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bengaluru - 43 and intend to enter into Joint Development Agreement with Owner **Smt Latha w/o Sri Munishamanna** is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. 53/2, which measuring **3 acres 30 guntas** and exclusive of **03 guntas 'A'** kharab land, situated at **Ganagalu Village**, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Road, **West by:** Land of Sy.No. 52/3, **North by:** Private Lands, **South by:** Land of Sy.No. 54/1 and referred to as "schedule property".

Any person or Any Authority or Any promoters having any asserting right, title, interest and claims to oppose for Joint Development Agreement of property and further having any manner of right, title, claims etc., and may lodge their objections, claims over the property along with relevant papers in support of their claims, right to the below address within 10 days from the date of this notice, if any objections fails to comply, my client shall take further steps and deemed for entering into Joint Development Agreement of property.

LINGARAJ S. NADAGOUDA., ADVOCATE
No.1854, 17th Main, 30th 'B' Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 043.
Mob : 96204 74780 , 94481 35970

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that I, **T.N. ARVIND REDDY**, S/o Late T.N. Venkatasubba Reddy, residing at 578, 16th B main 3rd Block, Koramangala, **BENGALURU 560 034** intend to purchase the schedule Property from one **Mrs. SRIVIDYA ANANTHAKRISHNAN**, D/o Late Ananthakrishnan T. V. Iyer, having PAN **CWMPA7200C**; Aadhar No. **4175 5500 8821**, residing at 2, **Bretton Road, Scarsdale, NY, 99- Foreign, 2-UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** who claims to be the absolute Owner of the Schedule property having marketable rights and title over the same. In this connection if any person/Financial Institution/statutory Authorities are having interest, claims or objection over the same may inform the undersigned along with documents/evidences of their claim within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice to the undersigned or may submit the documents which are in their possession in person to the undersigned.

SCHEDULE

Villa # A-31, (New Municipal Khata Number 6/130/1-31, A31) now having **EPID# 7840902430 : BBMP Ward 5-Jakkur**, Brnhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru having a **total saleable Area of 403.7566 sq. Mtrs (4346 sq. Ft.)** across basement and ground plus one upper floor, in the said project "RMZ Sawaan" together with exclusive right of use of garden area attached to the Villa, admeasuring **141.2126 Sq. Mtrs (1520 Sq. Ft.)**, terrace area attached to the said Villa admeasuring **33.5380 Sq. Mtrs (361 Sq. Ft.)**, having Carpet Area of **3584 Sq. Ft. (Rounded Off)** and also together with exclusive space for parking **4 (Four) Nos.** Light motor vehicles in the basement in the lower ground floor of the respective Villa.

Date : 19-10-2025

Place : Bengaluru

T.N. Arvind Reddy
578, 16th B main
3rd Block, Koramangala
Bengaluru - 560 034.
Mobile No:+91 98440 99773

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender of the following works are invited for the President of India : **Sl. No. : Tender Nos. : Name of the work : Advertised Value (Rupees) : Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees) : Period of Completion : Date of Closing are as follows : [01] : Engg-51-2025-26 : Automation of water supply system in CLW, Chittaranjan except area-3 (Officer colony) and area -7; ₹ 3,82,26,335.41; ₹ 3,41,100.00; 30 (Thirty) months; 03.11.2025. [02] : Engg-52-2025-26 : Upgradation of CPH Building and Subordinate Offices of Shop floor at CLW/CJRJ; ₹ 7,57,95,434.05; ₹ 5,29,000.00; 08 (Eight) months; 04.11.2025. NOTE:-1. Complete details can be seen in the Railways website www.irops.gov.in & www.ctw.indianrailways.gov.in. 2. Contact Number - 9163340201 & 9163340206. Deputy Chief Engineer/CLW/PRS/229 Chittaranjan visit us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. **CAO/CN/BC/20/2025/SBC**
Dated : **10-10-2025**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the Supply of following items.

Description in brief : LHB Bogies with 140 KN Bogies with air suspension for conversion of LS2/LS3 type coaches into LSS type coaches. (Tender No. L8256546A) (Qty : 02 Set)

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs on 10-11-2025**

For details log on : www.irops.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru

PUB/551AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway SWR (C) SWR/CLW (C) SWR/CLW (C) SWR/CLW (C)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. **CAO/CN/BC/EPC/146/2025**
Dated : **09-10-2025**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work : Approx. Value Engineering, Rs. 992.49.38.175/-

Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line Between Chainage 30/500 & Chainage 84/000 including Railway Electrification, Civil Works, Signal & Telecommunication works and Electrical General Services Between Koratager (Excl.) and Madakasira (Excl.) Stations in Tumakuru-Rayadurga New BG Line Project. (Tender Ref. No. TK-RDG-EPC-05)

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 25-11-2025**

For details log on : www.irops.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/551AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway SWR (C) SWR/CLW (C) SWR/CLW (C) SWR/CLW (C)

Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs

Reverse e-Auction Procurement Notice Through GeM Portal
Letter No.-kha.up.ni.-24/chini-04/2024-1754 Date :- 17-10-2025
For Supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) (As Per FSSAI Norms) for 4th Quarter (January 2025 to March 2025) of Financial Year 2024-25 By e-Tender Through E-Bid Followed By Reverse Auction on GeM Platform.

Bid Details	
GeM Bid No.	GEM/2025/B/6804598 Dated: 17-10-2025
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 24,84,000/- (Twenty Four Lakh Eighty Four Thousand) as EMD in form of demand draft in favor of Director, Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs, Jharkhand or in following bank details through online Bank Transfer from any nationalized or scheduled bank in India : Bank Name - Indian Bank, Branch - Ashok Nagar, Ranchi, A/C No. - 7876502276, IFSC - IDIB000A662
Tender Publishing Date/ Download Link of Tender Document	17-10-2025/ Through https://www.jharkhand.gov.in/food and https://gem.gov.in
Last Date and time of Bid Submission	01-11-2025 upto 18:00 pm
Online Bid Submission Period	From 17-10-2025 to 01-11-2025
Pre-Bid Meeting	24-10-2025 at 12:00 pm through google meet (https://meet.google.com/feoxzsswd)
Date of Auction	Will be published after technical evaluation
Name and concerned person for Correspondence	Mr. Dilip Tirkey Mobile no.- 9470520458, email- directorfood18@gmail.com
Sd/- Director (Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)	

PR 364478 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs (25-26)_D

Carnatic vocalist Ramamani passes away at 75

BENGALURU, DHNS: Well-known Carnatic vocalist and musician R A Ramamani passed away at 75, after a brief heart-related illness here on Saturday.

The Ganakala Bhushana Awardee was known for her Carnatic solo concerts, and especially for pioneering Carnatic-Jazz fusion.

She is among the first musicians to specialise in 'Avadhana Pallavi,' a classical form of singing a composition in two different rhythmic patterns simultaneously, in Karnataka, a senior musician and childhood friend of Ramamani told *DH*.

Accompanied by her husband, T A S Mani (a well-known mrigangam vidwan), the musical duo was known for popularising Carnatic music globally. Ramamani is survived by her son Karthik Mani and a host of disciples.

Kirmani wants Berlie Street named after him

BENGALURU, DHNS: Syed Mujtaba Hussain Kirmani, a key member of India's 1983 World Cup victory, has requested that a street in central Bengaluru be named after him.

On Saturday, Kirmani, along with a delegation of Bengaluru's Shia Muslim community, called upon Deputy CMD K Shivakumar.

In a letter addressed to Shivakumar he sought support for renaming Berlie Street to Syed Kirmani Street. The 75-year-old is a resident of the locality in Langford Town.

He cited a resolution passed by the BBMP during Sampath Raj's tenure as mayor (2017-18) for renaming the street and urged the DCM to revive and approve it. Kirmani noted that cricket legend G R Vishwanath, Anil Kumble and EAS Prasanna were immortalised with streets and landmarks in Bengaluru named after them.

FULLY CUT OFF



Heavy rain inundates Bharathi Street in Sringeri town, Chikkamagaluru district, on Saturday. After a brief lull, many parts of south interior Karnataka and Malnad region, including Chikkaballapur, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu districts, received copious rain. DH PHOTO

Permit must, says govt order...

RSS, From Page 3

Government premises include land, building, road, park, playground, water body or any immovable property owned and managed by local authorities or administrative departments, boards, corporations etc.

The jurisdictional police commissioner or deputy commissioner will be the 'competent authority' to issue permits.

"It has come to the notice of the government that various private organisations, associations and groups have been using government properties

and premises for organising and performing private programmes and events without any prior permission," states the home department order, adding that government properties are "affected adversely" because of this.

The order states that the government wants to "regulate the usage and maintenance of" government properties.

Applications for permission will be verified by the 'competent authority' with related departments. Applicants will be asked to obtain no-objections from local authorities and de-

partments like public works, fire, electricity etc. Applicants and associated persons will be held liable for any untoward incident. Any programme or procession held in violation of the government order will be treated as "unlawful assembly" under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS).

Departments of urban development, education, rural development and others have been asked to issue detailed guidelines "so as to ensure that the rights of the constitutionally-bound citizens are not compromised".

Decision today on allowing RSS...

Chittapur, From Page 3

DySP Shankargouda Patil said the report will be given to the tahsildar only after studying the implications of both events on law and order. Meanwhile, Chittapur Town Municipal Council removed cut-outs and banners installed by the RSS on the main road amid police security.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders raised slogans against the move

by expressing anger against the government. This led to an altercation between Congress and BJP at the venue. Sources said the officials removed the cut-outs and banners as these were installed before giving permission for RSS route march.

District BJP leaders condemned Priyank Kharage, accusing him of trying to make his home constituency as 'Republic of Chittapur'. Addressing

a press conference, former MP Dr Umesh Jadhav alleged that the minister is behaving like a 'super CM'.

District BJP president Ashok Bagali said Chittapur Town Municipal Council officials have removed Bhagwadhwaj, banners and bunting despite collecting fees for them. He also said that the organisation will approach the court if the permission is denied for the route march.

Every inch of Pak within...

Rajnath, From Page 3

The defence minister said India signed contracts worth Rs 4,000 crore to export BrahMos to two countries in the last one month, without disclosing the identity of the nations that would receive the made-in-India missile.

India has exported BrahMos to the Philippines in two batches in accordance with a \$375 million contract the two countries signed in 2022. While several other countries have shown interest, it is not immediately known which are the two countries with which New

Delhi signed the new Brahmos deal.

Referring to the Philippines deal, the minister said India was now playing the role of a giver, not just a taker.

Singh said the turnover of the BrahMos unit with a capacity of producing 100 missile systems annually would be around Rs 3,000 crore in the next financial year, of which the GST collection would be nearly Rs 500 crore.

Spread over 200 acres, the facility was set up at a cost of Rs 380 crore and is a key component of the UP defence industrial corridor inaugurated in May.

It's I.N.D.I.A vs I.N.D.I.A...

Bihar, From Page 3

Bachhwara has traditionally been a Left stronghold. However, Congress' logic is that Prakash Das's father Ramdeo Rai was a winner in 2015 Assembly polls and hence the party deserved this seat.

"This is a classic case of lack of unity, understanding and coordination where the constituents of Mahagat-bandhan are trying to upstage each other rather than taking their NDA rivals head on," said political scientist Giridhar Jha. No different is the case in Rosera where the Congress has fielded former IPS officer B K Ravi, while the

CPI has nominated Laxman Paswan for the reserved seat.

The 'infighting' has plagued the RJD too which has allotted the Vaishali seat to a turncoat Ajay Kushawaha, who joined Lalu's organisation last week. The Congress has fielded its candidate Sanjeev Singh from Vaishali. Yet another such constituency is Tarapur where the BJP has fielded its DCM Samrat Choudhary. The RJD has fielded Arun Shah, while its ally the VIP has nominated Sakaldeo Bind. "Any friendly fight amongst Mahagat-bandhan allies will make the victory task easier for the NDA," said another social scientist Ajay Kumar.

'Tax revenue of B'luru...

DKS, From Page 3

He further noted that the power of corporation councils to sanction works without tendering has been significantly enhanced, with the limit now raised to Rs 50 crore from the earlier Rs 10 crore under the BBMP, suggesting a five-fold increase in development opportunity. Shivakumar also promised to engage directly with the corporate sector soon on urban governance.

"I, and the Minister of IT-BT, Science and Technology, will hold a separate meeting with the IT-BT companies and listen to their problems in the

coming days. We are focused on our work and are not bothered about unwarranted criticism," he said. When asked whether Biocon Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, who had flagged issues such as poor roads and garbage collection in the city, had a discussion with him on developing about 10-15 roads, Shivakumar replied in the negative. He, however, said she was free to choose the roads she wanted to develop. "We will offer full cooperation," Shivakumar said the proposed tunnel road project would be linked to the metro, flyovers and national highways.

Can't threaten govt, DKS tells contractors

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Contractors Association (KSCA) met Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday and asked him to ensure the release of pending bills.

After the meeting, KSCA president R Manjunath maintained that the association would go ahead with its planned strike if pending bills worth Rs 33,000 crore are not substantially cleared in the next two months.

"I understand their (contractors) pain. But they can't threaten the government," Shivakumar said after meet-

ing the KSCA. He said he has assured them an audience with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

On contractors having to pay cuts or commissions, Shivakumar said: "I asked them to file an affidavit, a complaint and we'll investigate."

Manjunath said the KSCA asked Shivakumar to ensure bills up to Rs 50 lakh are cleared for small contractors.

Shivakumar blamed the previous BJP government for the huge amount of

pending bills.

"In my (water resources) department, I have Rs 200 crore, but there are bills of

Rs 17,000 crore. To whom should I pay with Rs 200 crore? Bills of Rs 2,000 crore are due to big contractors, who are building pressure on the government," he said.

"I assured (contractors) that money will be released by January depending upon the state's finances. Those who've done works must be paid," he said.



DCM D K Shivakumar

POPULIST PROJECT?

Woes overflow for existing ones; 7 started by BJP face closure

CM's Vachana varsity plan draws flak as existing ones flounder

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's promise that his government would set up a 'Vachana University' could, and must, rekindle a debate on the functioning of existing universities, including those that were established to promote specific disciplines or faculties.

The Vachana University is likely to come up either in Basavakalyan or Kudalasangama, two places known best for their association with 12th century social reformer Basavanna. He is widely credited with popularising the Vachana literature.

The likes of Industries Minister M B Patil and a few Lingayat seers are pushing for the Vachana University.

Numerous scholars and researchers have done ample work on the Vachana literature. There is also the PG Halakatti Research Centre. So what will the Vachana University do exactly? No one knows yet.

Any way, when it is set up, the Vachana University will become Karnataka's 42nd public university. Most of the existing ones are struggling to survive.

The University of Mysore (UoM), one of the state's oldest, has written to the government seeking funds to pay pensions and other retirement benefits.

Hampi's Kannada University, which was set up to conduct multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research on various

aspects of the state's language, is facing a funds crunch.

Last year, the university's vice-chancellor D V Parashivamurthy wrote to Siddaramaiah, seeking his "personal intervention" to help pay off the institution's bills.

The Kannada University, which had 446 students doing research last year, has managed to find only 101 students this year.

Looking at the last three years' student intake, overall admissions have declined by two lakh.

In the academic year 2022-23, admissions for various higher education courses in the state were 4,50,716 and the same declined to 2,47,559 in 2025-26.

The condition of special universities like Dr Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, Karnataka State Open University and Karnataka Janapada University are so pathetic that some of them have single-digit admissions for a few courses.

"A university dedicated to study reformers like Basavanna and their Vachanas is good. The question is, for how long will it sustain?," former vice-chancellor of Nrupathunga University Shrinivas S Balli said.

"Looking at the condition of 9-10 recently established universities, one will know how concerned the government is. All specialised universities are facing a funds crunch," Balli adds.

The Congress government is mulling over the closure of seven universities that were set



The Dr Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, which is functioning out of a government school in Mysuru for a long time now and is yet to get a campus of its own, epitomises the state of government-run universities started to promote specific disciplines. DH FILE PHOTO

up when BJP was in power.

A Cabinet sub-committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is studying the matter. It is yet to arrive at a conclusion.

Zero research

There are 11 universities without any PhD admissions. They include Nrupathunga University, Adikavi Sri Maharshi Valmiki University, Mandya University, Maharani Cluster University, Bidar University, Chamaraajaganagara University, Dr Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, Kodagu University, Koppala University and Bengaluru Dr B R Ambedkar School

of Economics University.

Vacancies

State-run universities are facing a huge shortage of staff, with 63.76% posts lying vacant.

Bengaluru City university has 161 sanctioned posts, of which only 10 are filled.

At least 11 universities, including Dr Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, Maharani Cluster University, Karnataka State Open University and all seven universities established by the previous BJP government have 100% faculty positions vacant. They're making do with guest lecturers.

Infra issues

The Karnataka State Higher Education Council has estimated that universities require Rs 676 crore to address critical infrastructure issues. This includes construction of classrooms, hostels, laboratories, auditoriums, sewage plants, stadiums, dining halls, libraries and so on.

Just to settle pension dues, state-run universities need Rs 562 crore. So far, the government has released only Rs 166 crore. The University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) and UoM have not paid pension to employees even after two years of their retirement.

RSS row: Tejasvi Surya offers to legally fight PDO's suspension

Cites court judgments upholding govt servants' right to attend Sangh events

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, a lawyer by training, said he had offered to "personally appear" on behalf of Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) Praveen Kumar KP to challenge his "illegal and unlawful" suspension for attending an RSS event.

Tejasvi reached out to Kumar and his family assuring support, a day after the PDO was fired for attending an RSS procession on October 12, a Sunday.

"I have spoken to the officer suspended by the government for taking part in RSS Path-sanchalan. Assured him that I will personally appear before the concerned tribunal and courts to challenge this illegal and unlawful suspension," Surya, the BJP Yuva Morcha national president, said.

"There are multiple judgments from across High Courts which have upheld government servants' right to participate in RSS programmes. I have no doubt that this unlawful suspension will be quashed," Surya said.

"If the Siddaramaiah government wants a legal battle, we will give it one". On Friday, Ru-

Govt has no plan to ban RSS, says law minister

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil has said that there was no proposal before the government to ban the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangha (RSS) in the state.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, Patil said that government has no plans to ban any organisation in Karnataka.

"I cannot comment on comments made by other Congress leaders demanding to ban the RSS on the ground that it is not a registered organisation," Patil said. The minister said that the dates for winter session of the state legislature at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha were yet to be decided.



Tejasvi Surya

ral Development & Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge's department issued an order suspending Kumar for his "conduct unbecoming of a government servant" after he attended the RSS centenary celebration.

Free legal support: Yatnal Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal also announced providing "full legal support" to government employees who face action by the Congress government.

"I am offering free legal support to RSS karyakartas whose voices are being suppressed or stifled by the Congress government," Yatnal, the Bijapur city MLA, said.

Govt's move to curb RSS activities in public places: Will Muslims seek nod for namaz on road, asks Rajanna

TUMAKURU, DHNS

Casting doubts on the state government's move to restrict RSS activities, veteran Congress legislator K N Rajanna on Saturday sought to know whether it (govt) would require Muslims to get permission to perform

namaz at Idgah or on roads.

"Will the government prevent the Muslims from performing namaz on roads without permission? Will they seek the government's permission to offer namaz? The government should bring laws or rules which can be enforced, otherwise they will remain

KN RAJANNA
Congress MLA

Will the government prevent the Muslims from performing namaz on roads without permission? Will they seek the government's permission to offer namaz?

only in books," Rajanna told reporters when asked about the state government's decision to prohibit any event without prior permission in government institutions and public places.

Rajanna, who was sacked from the Siddaramaiah's Cabinet a few months ago, in a sym-

posium on socio-educational survey, said, "Siddaramaiah was keen on implementing H Kantharaju and Jayaprakash Hegde reports, but a section of Congress leaders pressured him not to implement the reports. Hence, the CM was forced to hold a fresh survey. He is helpless."

The Madhugiri MLA suggested Home Minister G Parameshwara to give up reserved constituency and contest from general seat. "We should make way for others from Dalit and deprived communities by giving up reserved constituencies," he said.

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DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS (Administrative Reforms)
Room No. 612, 6th Floor, Multi Storied Building, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001 | Phone : 080-2203 2825

D.O. No.: DPAR(AR)/327/ RTI 2025 **Date:** 18.10.2025

PUBLICATION

"The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Administrative Reforms) has issued a notification on 18.10.2025 to fill up **01 post of the State Chief Information Commissioner in the Karnataka Information Commission**, which shall be vacant in the month of October, 2025. The Notification has been uploaded on the department website www.dparar.karnataka.gov.in.

Chapter-IV of the Right to Information Act 2005, provides that the **State Chief Information Commissioner** shall be a person of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass-media or administration and governance.

Those interested in being appointed as the State Chief Information Commissioner may submit their personal details using the link available at www.dparar.karnataka.gov.in or <http://sevasindhustudies.karnataka.gov.in/directApply.do?serviceld=2508> by **5.30 PM on 10.11.2025**".

Sd/-
Under Secretary to Government
Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms (AR)
(Traning & RTI)

DIPR/CP/3356/SA/2025-26

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: 08537-275463, 276339, e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 19/25-26 Dt: 19.10.2025
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited by "The Senior Manager (Materials)" for the following Tenders, detailed below:

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Compressive operation, maintenance and security contract (CAOMSC) for 3 Nos. of 1.5 MW and 1 No. of 2.1 MW WTGs of Suzlon make. HGML/2024-25/SE0042/CALL-2	6,63,000/-
2	Compressive operation, maintenance and security contract (CAOMSC) for its 4.8 MW (0.6 MW X 8 Nos.) WTG of Vestas RRB make. HGML/2024-25/SE0043/CALL-2	4,30,000/-
3	Tender for Providing Human resources Services to Sand project sites of HGML. HGML/2025-26/SE0062	3,18,000/-

Calendar of events: (1) Pre-Bid Meetings (Zoom): **25.10.2025 for Sl.No.1, 2 & 3 at 10.00 AM**. Last date for receipt of tender: **01.11.2025 at 4.00 PM**. (3) Opening of Technical Bid on: **03.11.2025 at 10.00 AM**. For further details interested bidders are advised to login to website <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP Portal.

Sd/- Senior Manager (Materials)

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TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tender for following Services. **Enquiry No. CEE/BMANZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/25-26/Enq.No.05 Dated: 17.10.2025** for Providing services of 24 no's of drivers to various division of East and North Circle in BMANZ, BESCOM, Bangalore for a period of one year.

Issue of bid documents: **21.10.2025 to 31.10.2025, (14.00 Hrs.)** Receipt of bid documents: **31.10.2025 upto (16.00 Hrs.)** Opening of bid documents on or after: **03.11.2025 (11.00 Hrs.)**

The tenders can be obtained through e-Procurement by visiting our website or directly you can access the tendering website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Any clarification about e-payment contact e-procurement Helpdesk: **080-22485867** or e-mail to: hpelpdesk.blr@rte services.com for any issue.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Electy), (C, O & M), BMANZ-North, BESCOM, Bengaluru.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Water Resource Department (Minor Irrigation)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Admin Block, NH-75 Road, Near Café Coffee Day, Narsapura-563133, Kolar taluk & District. E-Mail: eemidkkr@rediffmail.com, eemigwddkolar@gmail.com, Landline No: 08152-200049

No: EE/MI/Ko/TA/AE/Tender Notification/1570/ 2025-26/ Dtd:18.10.2025

Short term tender notification no: 13/2025-26/ Dtd:18.10.2025

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kolar has invited tenders for eligible bidders through KPP-Procurement for the work in two cover system for the 07 number of work. The tender procedure as per Rule of KPTPP Act and standard tender document KW-2 (03 work), KC-6 (01 Work), KC-7 (01 Work) & KC-5 (01 Work), shall be followed. Scheduled EMD amount to be submitted through KPP-Portal and tender processing fees as per KPP-Portal procedure. Downloading tender documents through KPP-Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in starts from **Dt:24.10.2025 04:30 PM**. Last date of uploading tender documents upto **Dt: 04.11.2025 04:30 PM**. **Pre bid meeting for KC-6 work Date: 30.10.2025 @11:30 AM at Office of the Executive Engineer MI & GWD division, Kolar.** Opening of technical bid **Dt:05.11.2025 @ 04:31 PM**. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to make any changes in above details in future if needed. For more details can be obtained from the office of the under signed on all working days during office hours and also through website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water, Development Division, Kolar.

DIPR/KOLAR/RO-322/KSMCA/2025-26



CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI

C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara,
Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com,
Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in

No/CGB/PWD/EE/DM/TND/Proc-18/2025-26

Date :18-10-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act1999 Rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for 03 number of work approved under Corporation Fund . For more details visit online website (<https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) . Any Addendum/Corrigendum will be published in Karnataka Public procurement portal only.

1) Last date for Queries : 23-10-2025 upt o 5.00 PM. 2) Pre-bid meeting 24-10-2025 at 11.00 AM in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi. 3) Last date for receipt of tender : 28-10-2025 upt o 4.00 PM. 4) Date for opening of technical bid: 30-10-2025 at 11.00 AM in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi. 5) Date for opening of financial bid : 31-10-2025 at 11.00 AM in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.

Sd/- Commissioner,
City Corporation Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/1204/Manipal/2025-26

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/419/ ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಯುಷ್
ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26 ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

SURVIVING THE ODDS Judges recuse from Sanjiv’s cases even as bureaucrats fear him

Feisty IFS officer exposes limits of judiciary & executive

BHAVDEEP KANG

“*Main roz marta hoon, roz bachta hoon* (I face death every day, and I survive)”: Sanjiv Chaturvedi

Career death has shadowed Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi, 50, ever since he entered civil service. His 23-year tenure has been a relentless battle against corruption. In the process, he has set records — the youngest civil servant in the country to receive the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay award, and the only litigant to have faced recusals by 16 judges.

Chaturvedi’s track record in exposing scams won public acclaim, but made him the target of a section of politicians and bureaucrats. He has sought refuge in law, but judges have been curiously reluctant to decide his cases.

Two Supreme Court and four high court justices, two lower court judges and eight members of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) have recused themselves, without citing a reason, from his cases in the last 12 years. The IFS officer appears to have opened up a can of worms that the judiciary is reluctant to address.

Nerve wracking

Last fortnight was nerve wracking even for the dauntless Chaturvedi.

The CAT — miffed at a defamation suit that he had filed against one of its mem-

bers — had initiated suo motu criminal contempt against him. The tribunal took up the matter, regardless of a stay by the Uttarakhand High Court. Chaturvedi approached the HC, but Justices Ravindra Maithani and Alok Verma declined to hear him.

Rumour was rife that Chaturvedi would be convicted by CAT. But, the media outcry following the 16th recusal prompted Chief Justice G Narendar of the Uttarakhand HC to intervene. At the 11th hour, he stayed the matter until October 30, and the IFS officer survived to fight another day.

Chaturvedi’s battles began, fittingly enough, in Kurukshetra (where the epic hero Arjuna put duty above all). Born in Allahabad, he was allotted the Haryana cadre after joining the IFS in 2002. As a probationer, he’d been impressed by IAS officer Ashok Khemka’s tough stance on corruption. His career trajectory was to follow ‘transfer babu’ Khemka’s, with 12 transfers in five years.

In quick succession, the young engineer-turned-forest officer exposed illegal tree-felling and poaching, misuse of public money and large-scale embezzlement in fake plantation schemes.

Evidently, political bigwigs were involved. Haryana’s then chief minister B S Hooda went hammer and tongs at him. He suspended Chaturvedi and recommended his dismissal, downgraded his performance reviews and sought to implicate him in an abetment-to-suicide case. But Chaturvedi found

supporters in high places.

The then President of India, Pratibha Patil, revoked his suspension.

It was the first of six interventions by Presidents Patil and Pranab Mukherjee on Chaturvedi’s behalf. Hooda’s orders were set aside. In 2012, Chaturvedi was moved to Delhi as Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), even as the Union government directed a CBI probe into the scams he had exposed in Haryana.

In the Augean stables of AIIMS, Chaturvedi found embezzlement in construction projects, tenders, security contracts, purchases of equipment and drugs, pension funds and so on, in which senior bureaucrats and doctors were involved. Some 20 of the over 200 financial irregularities he red-flagged were referred to the CBI. The then Union health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad dubbed his work as outstanding.

When the government changed in 2014, Chaturvedi was ousted as CVO.

What had he done to

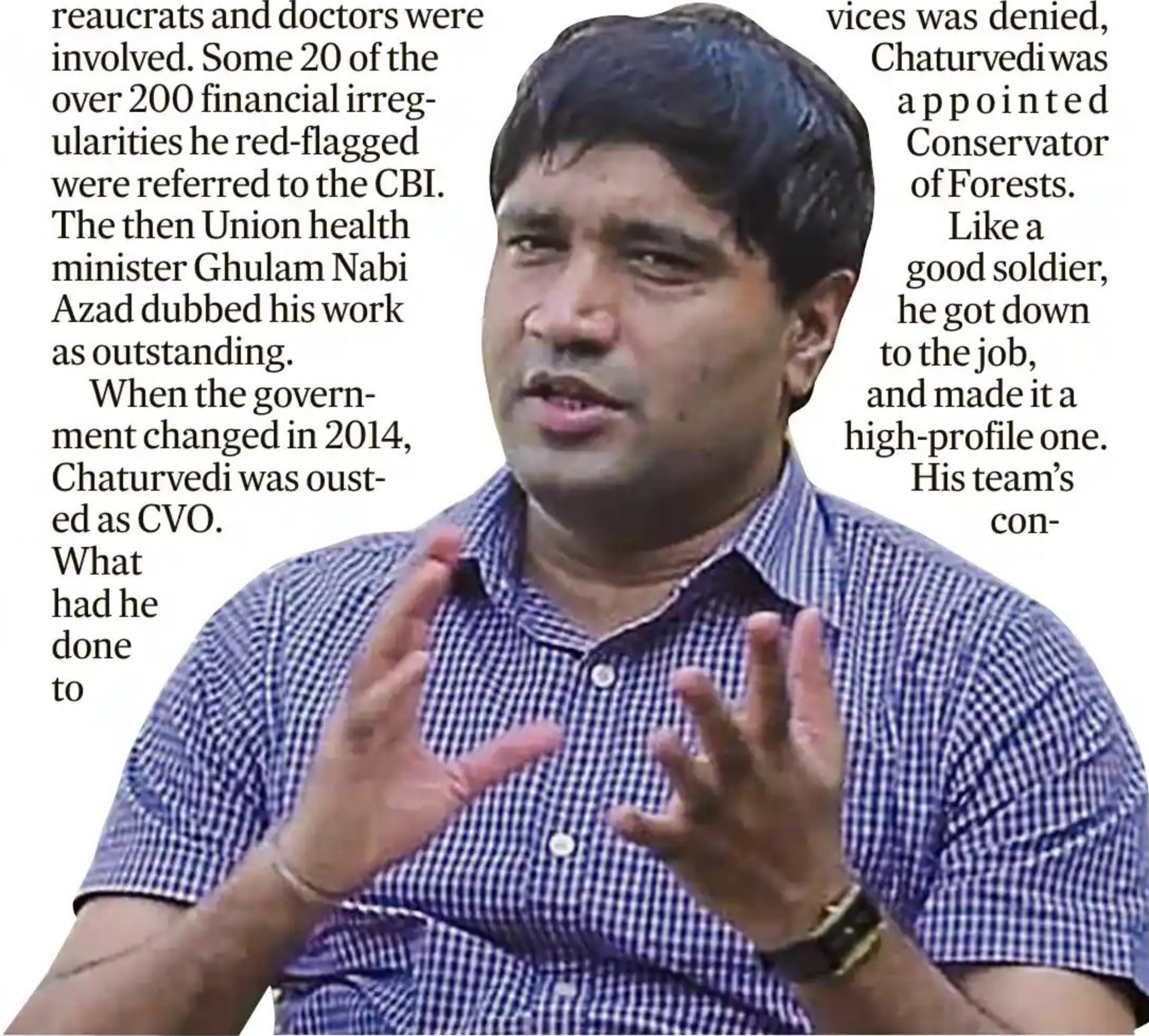
annoy the BJP brass? It turned out that some of those caught with their hands in the till were close to high-profile figures in the new dispensation.

Pat and a slap

The following year, Chaturvedi received both a pat on the back and a slap in the face. The Ramon Magsaysay Foundation honoured him for “his exemplary integrity, courage and tenacity” in exposing corruption, while the Union health ministry awarded him a zero in his Annual Performance Appraisal Report. It remains the only instance when his APAR has been below par.

Chaturvedi joined the Uttarakhand cadre in 2015. After Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal’s request for his services was denied,

Chaturvedi was appointed Conservator of Forests. Like a good soldier, he got down to the job, and made it a high-profile one. His team’s con-



servations of rare Himalayan flora and fauna, use of AI to study the impact of climate change and efforts to raise public awareness on ecology through innovative biodiversity parks brought international recognition.

The fight against corruption continued. Chaturvedi flagged irregularities in the running of the Corbett National Park and most recently, the disappearance of 7,375 boundary pillars in the Mussoorie Forest Division (thereby inviting encroachment). Even as the state government reacted by transferring him, the Union environment ministry ordered a probe into the scam.

Chaturvedi is not the first civil servant to run afoul of the politician-bureaucrat nexus, but he’s certainly the most feisty. Show-cause notices have been issued to the country’s top bureaucrats, including the cabinet secretary and CBI and IB officials, on his petitions.

He’s scored points against the Union government in court, where his knowledge of law has impressed even the judges. Chaturvedi may well end up as a cautionary tale for upright civil servants. For the moment, he has a legion of well-wishers, and is something of a hero figure.

He’s lectured probationers on anti-corruption measures at the IAS, IPS and forest academies. The main point of his story is that it exposes the Achilles heel of both the executive and the judiciary.

(Author is an independent journalist)

Omar reaffirms demand for J&K statehood

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Reiterating his demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said his government would scrap the Public Safety Act (PSA) through an ordinance the moment full powers are returned to an elected government.

Omar said his party’s 2024 manifesto had made it clear that major reforms—including the repeal of the PSA—could only be implemented once statehood is restored. “Law and order is presently under the Lieutenant Governor’s control. But once we regain full authority, the Public Safety Act will go,” he told reporters.

The PSA, a 1978 law allowing detention without trial for up to two years, has long been criticised by rights groups and political parties for alleged misuse against dissenters. Omar said its repeal would mark a significant step toward “end-

ing decades of mistrust and arbitrary detentions.”

Calling on the Centre to honour its assurance, the chief minister reminded that statehood was part of a three-phase roadmap promised by New Delhi—delimitation, elections, and restoration. “Two steps are complete. The third must follow. Linking statehood with militancy is unjust when those behind recent incidents aren’t even from J&K,” he added.



Omar Abdullah

May move SC

The CM also said he was considering becoming a party to the petitions filed in the Supreme Court. “I have consulted senior lawyers in J&K and Delhi. Having governed both as chief minister of a state and a Union Territory, I understand how limited our powers are under the present system,” he said.

He also strongly asserted the National Conference would never join hands with the BJP to hasten the return of statehood to the Union territory.

‘J&K statehood at right time’

PATNA, PTI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday promised restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir at “an appropriate time” and a “good resolution” of demands raised by people of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Speaking at a media conclave in Patna, he also claimed that after the abrogation of Article 370, terror-infested Jammu and Kashmir has “taken a U-turn” and “no local terrorist has been recruited in the past nine months”.

When asked about CM Omar Abdullah’s statement regarding the “gulf” between J&K and New Delhi on account of statehood not being restored,

Shah said, “He (Abdullah) may be saying this out of political compulsions. But statehood would be restored at an appropriate time. And it will be done following discussions with him.”

About the recent agitations in Ladakh, Shah said, “We urge the people to have patience. There will be a good resolution of all their just demands.”



Amit Shah

India-US trade talks on in cordial atmosphere: Goyal

Says interests of farmers, MSMEs will be protected

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Insisting that India will protect the interests of farmers, fishermen and MSME sectors in trade talks, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said discussions between India and the US on a proposed bilateral trade agreement are progressing in a cordial atmosphere.

“No agreement can be made until we take care of the interests of India’s farmers, fishermen and MSME sector,” he told reporters here.

The remarks are significant as the United States is seeking concessions in India’s agriculture sector.

The Indian official team, headed by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, was in Washington this week to hold three-day trade talks with its US counterparts, which ended on October 17. The team is on its way back.

An official stated that the talks were positive, and several issues had been resolved in earlier rounds of negotiations.

TRADE RELATIONS

■ US as India’s top trading partner (2024-25), with trade valued at \$ 131.84 billion.

■ India’s merchandise exports to the US dropped 11.93% in September due to high tariffs.

■ Imports from the US rose by 11.78% in the same period.

Goyal said, “Despite the international difficulties, India is progressing so rapidly that even the IMF had to revise its forecast upward to 6.6% growth this year.”

The Minister expressed confidence that, despite global uncertainties due to the US tariffs, India’s exports will register a positive growth in 2025-26.

The minister said that during the first 6 months (April-September) of this fiscal the country’s goods and services exports have recorded growth, around 5% to \$413.3 billion.

When asked if some e-commerce firms have not passed on the benefits of the GST cut to consumers, he said that normally, all firms have passed on the benefits. “But if any site or platform has not passed on the benefits... consumer affairs (department) can take action...,” he added.

GST rate cut benefits passed on to consumers: Nirmala

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Insisting that the GST rate cut benefits were fully passed on to consumers, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the government has been tracking 54 essential items to ensure that companies and retailers transfer tax savings to end-users.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Electronics & IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Sitharaman said she also saw a “more-than-expected” price reduction due to the GST reforms had been passed on to end consumers in quite a few cases.

Sharing data, the Minister highlighted a surge in demand across multiple sectors. Three-wheeler dispatches grew 5.5% year-on-year, while two-wheeler sales touched 21.6 lakh units in September. The passenger vehicle segment recorded 3.72 lakh dispatches, driven by a festive surge in the last nine days of the month.



Nirmala Sitharaman with Piyush Goyal on Saturday. PTI

Consumer durables also reported strong growth as air conditioner sales doubled on the first day of the GST cut, while a leading TV manufacturer saw 30-35% higher sales. LG India reported exponential growth during the Navratri season, and the FMCG sector posted broad-based gains, Sitharaman said.

Effective September 22, GST has become a two-tier tax structure of 5 and 18%, with a special 40% rate for ultra-luxury items. Prior to this, GST was taxed at rates of 5, 12, 18, and 28%, plus a compensation cess on luxury items.

Items like shampoo, talcum powder, face powder, table, kitchenware, and utensils

made of iron, steel and copper, besides toys, umbrellas, all saw more-than-expected price reduction.

Sitharaman said except for the Portland variety of cement of one or two brands, all cement companies have reduced prices.

Sitharaman also said the Department of Consumer Affairs has received 3,169 complaints related to non-reduction in prices commensurate with the GST cut. Of this, 3,075 complaints have been forwarded to nodal officers in the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), while 94 complaints have been resolved by the department.

The department will enable a functionality on the grievance reporting portal so that the complaints can be forwarded to the chief commissioners of the respective zones, the minister said.

Answering a question on opposition terming GST reforms a course correction, Sitharaman said the Modi government set the course for GST and implemented it.

Telangana shuts down over 42% BC quota demand

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Telangana came to a standstill on Saturday as Backward Class (BC) associations called for a statewide bandh demanding a 42% reservation for the community in local bodies.

All major political parties, including the Congress, BRS and the BJP, actively participated in the protests. The Congress accused the BJP and the BRS of blocking the proposal, while the Opposition parties blamed the ruling dispensation for the setback.

The bandh was triggered by a recent Supreme Court verdict dismissing the government’s petition seeking to enhance BC reservations to 42% in local bodies.

It received widespread support and evoked a near-total response across Telangana.

Many educational institutions and commercial establishments remained closed,

while road transport corporation buses stayed off roads.

Madiga Reservation Porata Samiti (MRPS) leader Manda Krishna Madiga said the demand for enhanced BC reservation represented a long-pending aspiration of the weaker sections.

Criticising the implementation of the economically weaker section (EWS) reservation, Madiga argued that they were introduced for poor people from upper castes. He claimed that when the 10% EWS reservation exceeded the population share of economically-weaker upper castes, the 50% ceiling on quota was not brought up.

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said there should be a uniform approach to reservation. He said the government and BC organisations would continue their legal fight.



A deserted bus terminal during a statewide bandh in Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

Chandrayaan-2 observes Sun’s impact on Moon

CHENNAI, PTI: The Chandrayaan-2 mission, launched in 2019, has made the first-ever observation of the effects of the Sun’s Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) on the Moon using its onboard scientific instruments, Isro said on Saturday.

This observation would help understand the lunar exosphere, very thin atmosphere of the Moon, and the impact of space weather on its surface, Isro said.

Launched on July 22, 2019, from Sriharikota using the GSLV-MkIII-M1 rocket, Chandrayaan-2 carried eight experiment payloads.

According to an Isro release, one of the payloads (on-board Chandrayaan-2), Chandra’s Atmospheric Compositional Explorer 2 (CHACE-2) has recorded the effects of the Coronal Mass ejections from the Sun on the lunar exosphere.

The primary objective of the CHACE-2 payload is to study the composition and distribution of the lunar neutral exosphere and its variability.

Maha: 8 killed, 15 injured as vehicle falls into gorge

MUMBAI, DHNS: Eight persons died and 15 others were injured when a pick-up truck carrying pilgrims fell into a gorge at Chandshaili Ghat in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra on Friday night.

The mishap occurred near Makad Tekdi in the Dhadgaon-Taloda area, under the jurisdiction of the Shahada police station. Nandurbar police are probing the cause of the accident.

According to preliminary reports, the pick-up truck was carrying a group of pilgrims returning from a temple visit when the driver lost control while negotiating a sharp turn on the steep ghat section. The vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into the gorge.

The injured were immediately rushed to Taloda Rural Hospital, Nandurbar District Hospital, and some to private hospitals.

Neglect parents, lose pay: Revanth to govt staff

ELDERLY WELFARE

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday announced plans to introduce legislation mandating a salary deduction of 10-15% from government employees who fail to care for their aging parents. The deducted amount would be directly credited to the parents’ bank accounts.

At a programme organised to distribute appointment letters to Group-II exam qualifiers, Revanth Reddy said the measure was aimed at ensuring that aged parents were not neglected.

“Just as employees receive their salary on the first of every month, their parents will also receive the amount the same day,” Revanth said, adding that legislation to this effect would be

enacted soon.

He urged children, irrespective of gender, to remain responsible toward their parents.

“Daughters should care for their parents even after marriage. Sons may receive dowries, cars, and in-laws, but must never abandon their parents. You owe what you are today to them,” he said.

Revanth also said he would have the proposed bill drafted by newly-appointed officers, and directed Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, who was present at the event, to form a committee of officers to draft the legislation.

The CM also took a swipe at the previous BRS government, accusing it of neglecting job recruitment during its 10-year rule. “During the last decade, not a single Group-I or Group-

II notification was issued. It is the people’s government that has fulfilled this long-pending promise within 18 months of coming to power,” he said.

Handing over the appointment letters, Revanth reminded the newly-recruited officers that Telangana’s statehood was achieved through the sacrifices of students and unemployed youth.

“The previous rulers formed the government on those very sacrifices but forgot the aspirations of the unemployed. Had they acted responsibly, these youth would have secured jobs eight years earlier,” he said.

Reddy also warned against a resurgence of “sentimental politics”, alleging that BRS leaders are attempting to exploit emotional narratives to regain power.

“People must remain vigilant and not fall for such tactics,” he cautioned.



A Revanth Reddy

Vrindavan Banke Bihari Temple's treasury opened after 54 years

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The treasury of the famous Banke Bihari Temple in Uttar Pradesh’s Vrindavan was opened after 54 years on Saturday in the presence of the office bearers of the Temple management amid protests by a section of the ‘sevayats’ (the Goswami priests, who are the Temple’s hereditary caretakers).

The treasury was opened on the orders of the High-Powered Temple Managing Committee.

While a wooden case, three ‘deg’ (a round-shaped utensil used in cooking), three bowls, a ‘parat’ (a large flat plate), a



Banke Bihari Temple

small silver umbrella, and a letter dated February 2, 1970, have been found, the removal process was still underway.

A section of the ‘sevayats’, who are responsible for the daily rituals of the temple, protested the opening and demanded that the process of taking out the items be shown live to all through a screen to be put up outside.

BORDER BLOWBACK Taliban defiance deepens border crisis with its one-time ally

Pak faces fallout of its Afghan policy

SHARAT SABHARWAL

The chickens of Pakistan's Afghanistan policy have come home to roost with its latest and most serious border clashes with Taliban forces. Pakistan and Afghanistan have had a turbulent relationship marked by recurring downturns. Rather than playing a constructive role as Afghanistan's immediate neighbour, Pakistan has long sought a pliable government and strategic depth in Kabul. In doing so, it has alienated most Afghan governments — the Taliban being the latest.

The Taliban's victory in August 2021, celebrated in Pakistan as a vindication of its policy, has turned into a security nightmare. No longer dependent on Pakistan for survival, the Taliban are asserting their independence. The key disputes centre on the Taliban's refusal, like previous Afghan regimes, to recognise the Durand Line, and Islamabad's accusation that the Taliban shelter the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), blamed for the surge in terror attacks since 2021. Pakistan has also accused India of backing the TTP — a charge both Kabul and New Delhi deny. The Taliban, ideologically close to the TTP, which fought beside them against US-led forces, have instead accused Pakistan of harbouring their enemy, the Islamic State (IS).

Pakistan's efforts to pressure the Taliban — through restrictions on Afghan transit trade, mass expulsions of Afghans and periodic airstrikes — have failed. Smaller border skirmishes have occurred earlier, but the recent confrontation marks a sharp escalation.

The trigger came from Pakistan's airstrikes in Kabul and

Paktika, near the frontier, on the night of 9–10 October. The strikes in Kabul, an unprecedented move, were reportedly aimed at TTP chief Noor Wali Mehsud. He later released messages claiming to be unharmed. The raids followed the killing of 11 Pakistani troops in a TTP attack and coincided with Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit to India.

While not directly confirming the strikes, the Pakistan army said it would take "all necessary measures" to protect Pakistani lives and property. Afghanistan's Defence Ministry vowed to defend its territory. What followed remains murky. Kabul claimed its forces killed 58 Pakistani soldiers and seized 25 army posts in retaliatory strikes. Pakistan countered that Afghan forces had fired first on the night of 11–12 October, and that it destroyed several Afghan outposts, killed more than 200 Taliban and "affiliated terrorists", and captured 19 Afghan positions — admitting 23 Pakistani casualties.

Fighting flared again after a short lull. On 15 October, Pakistan announced "precision strikes" in Kabul and Kandahar, before both sides agreed to a 48-hour ceasefire to facilitate talks. Each side issued inflated claims of the damage inflicted on the other. Tensions remain high. Reports of extending the ceasefire for dialogue in Doha were soon followed by further Pakistani airstrikes in Paktika and renewed clashes.

For Pakistan, Afghan hostility is a grave challenge in its already volatile Pakhtun belt, where resentment has deepened due to the state's heavy-handed tactics and radicalisation dating back to the anti-Soviet jihad. The cross-border ethnic pull of the Pakhtuns — a people divided by the unrecognised Durand Line



Taliban security personnel on a Soviet-era tank are followed by motorcyclists as they ride towards the border with Pakistan in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar Province. AFP FILE

— adds to Islamabad's unease.

Neither side is likely to opt for an all-out war. Pakistan knows that a major campaign could mire its army in Afghanistan, as it did stronger powers before. It may instead rely on airstrikes and covert attempts to weaken the Taliban by exploiting internal divisions — notably among the Haqqani faction — and supporting rival Afghan groups. The Pakistan Foreign Office has dismissed the Taliban as a regime "holding power by force" and predicted that Afghans would "one day elect their true representatives." The Taliban, for their part, may prefer guerrilla tactics and covert strikes.

The ongoing conflict threatens to deepen instability across the two fragile nations and beyond. Regional powers have expressed alarm. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Iran have urged restraint and sought to mediate. China, wary of threats to its Belt and Road projects, has offered to mediate again despite past failures. The

core issues, however, remain irreconcilable and can only be superficially managed.

US President Donald Trump has also voiced an intent to "handle" the Pakistan–Afghanistan hostilities, likely seeking leverage to regain access to the Bagram airbase.

Radicalisation and instability in Afghanistan and Pakistan that threatens the entire region is not of India's making. India has to deal with this situation and Pakistan's hostility resulting from the internal dynamics of these countries and the short-sighted policies of major powers in relation to them. The ideal of a stable, democratic, inclusive and moderate Afghanistan remains a distant goal.

However, the hard fact is that Pakistan's preoccupation on its western frontier constrains its propensity to be adventurous towards India.

Further, aside from India's civilisational links with the Afghan people and its development assistance, Afghanistan

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Nepal's Gen Z group ready to form political party; puts conditions

► Nepal's Gen Z group on Saturday announced that it will establish a political party, but said its participation in next year's general election depends on the fulfilment of certain "bottom-line" conditions, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

Elections in the Himalayan nation are slated to take place on March 5, 2026. The youth-led group led protests against corruption and a government ban on social media sites last month, resulting in the ouster of the K P Sharma Oli-led government. Led by Miraj Dhungana, one of the leaders of the recent Gen Z movement, the

group unveiled its agenda in a press conference here. They asserted that although they are considering forming a political party to bring together the Gen-Z youths, they will not contest the election until their "bottom line" demands are addressed.

The group has been primarily advocating for two key agendas: a directly elected executive system and voting rights for Nepali citizens residing abroad. According to Dhungana, his group has decided that the formation of a political party is essential to unite the youths associated with the Gen-Z movement.

3 Indians killed in Mozambique

► Three Indian nationals were killed, one was injured, and five others rescued in a boat accident off the coast of Beira in Mozambique, PTI reports from Maputo.

The Indian High Commission on Saturday that the mishap took place on Thursday. In a social media post, the Indian mission conveyed its "heartfelt condolences on the loss of lives, including of

three Indian nationals," in the boat accident off Beira port. It said the mission was in contact with the families of those who lost their lives in the mishap and is extending all possible assistance to them. In another post, the High Commission said an Indian national who survived the accident was receiving medical attention in a hospital in Beira.



A plane stands on the tarmac as firefighters try to extinguish a fire in the cargo section at the airport in Dhaka on Saturday. There were no immediate reports of casualties. AFP

Rafah crossing to reopen tomorrow

► The Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt will reopen on Monday for people returning to Gaza, the Palestinian embassy in Egypt said, AP/PTI reports from Cairo.

"The number of people registering to return to Gaza is very big," Naji al-Naji, cultural counsellor at the embassy, said. There was no immediate comment from

Israel. The Rafah crossing was the only one not controlled by Israel before the war. It has been closed since May 2024, when Israel took control of the Gaza side. A fully reopened crossing would make it easier for Gazans to seek medical treatment, travel internationally or visit family in Egypt, home to tens of thousands of Palestinians.

India will not buy Russian oil, reiterates Trump

WASHINGTON, PTI: US President Donald Trump reiterated that India will not be buying oil from Russia, saying that New Delhi has already "de-escalated" and "more or less stopped" its oil purchases from Moscow.

While speaking to the media during a bilateral lunch with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on Friday, "Trump said India will not be buying oil from Russia, they

have already de-escalated and they have more or less stopped." "They are pulling back. They have bought about 38 per cent of the oil, and they won't be doing it anymore," Trump said while replying to a question.

India on Thursday said it is "broad-basing and diversifying" its sourcing of energy to meet market conditions, hours after US President Donald Trump claimed that Prime Minister

Narendra Modi assured him that New Delhi will stop procuring Russian crude oil.

Washington has been maintaining that India is helping Putin to finance the war through its purchase of Russian crude oil. The relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe stress after Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to a whopping 50%.

Munir warns India of 'decisive response'

Says there is no space for war in a nuclearised environment

ISLAMABAD, PTI

In a sharp escalation of rhetoric, Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir on Saturday warned India of a "decisive response" to even a minor provocation, saying there was no space for war in a "nuclearised environment".

Munir was addressing the graduation ceremony of passing-out army cadets at the premier Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) Kakul in Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "I advise and firmly caution India's military leadership that there is no space for war in a nuclearised environment," he said.

"We will never be intimidated, nor coerced by rhetoric, and will respond decisively to even a minor provocation without any qualms," the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) asserted.

Referring to the recent military conflict between India and Pakistan, Munir claimed that his country's armed forces had demonstrated "remarkable professionalism" and "far-reaching capabilities" by "neutralising" all threats and emerging "victorious" against a "numerically superior adversary".

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes, following direct talks between the Directors General of Mil-



ASIM MUNIR
Pakistan Army chief



We will never be intimidated, nor coerced by rhetoric, and will respond decisively to even a minor provocation without any qualms

itary Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries.

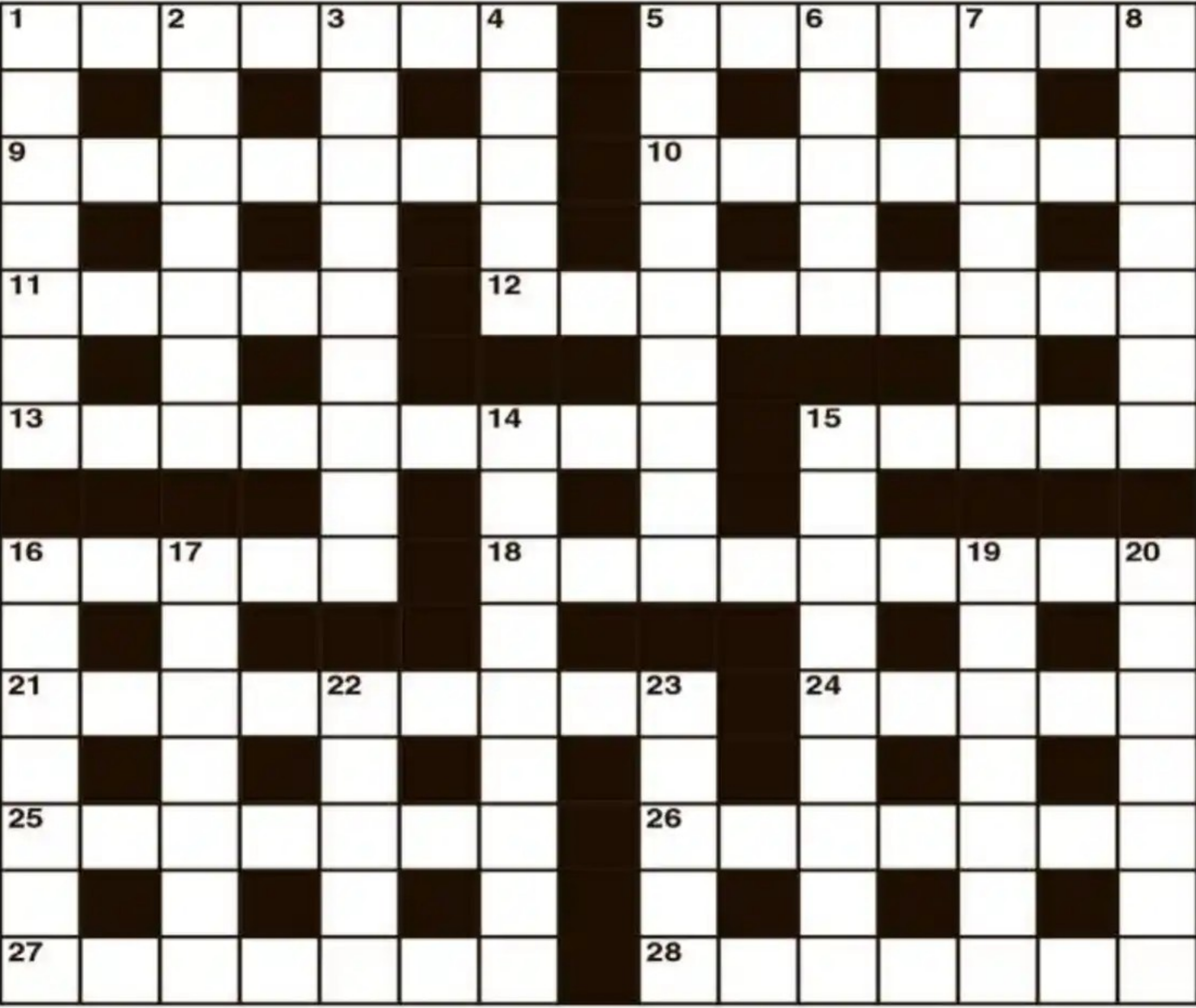
Munir also accused India of using terrorism as a weapon to destabilise Pakistan, saying a handful of terrorists could not harm the country. He warned that all "proxies" using Afghan soil would be "raised to dust", in an apparent reference to Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The Army chief urged India to settle "core issues" as per international norms — an apparent reference to the Kashmir dispute — while reiterating Pakistan's commitment to provide "moral and diplomatic support" to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Describing Pakistan as a peace-loving nation, Munir said it enjoyed strong relations with major powers, including the US and China.

At the ceremony, cadets from several friendly countries, including Malaysia, Nepal, Palestine, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Yemen, Mali, Maldives and Nigeria, also graduated.

Munir congratulated them and lauded the PMA's role as a "cornerstone of military excellence and international camaraderie".

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2650 ◆



- ACROSS**
- 1 Control and utilise (7)
 - 5 Kettledrums (7)
 - 9 Action to show friendship (7)
 - 10 Central principle (7)
 - 11 Proficient (5)
 - 12 Dilapidation (9)
 - 13 Morally obliged (4-5)
 - 15 Hotel entrance hallway (5)
 - 16 Raid (5)
 - 18 Joke of a book (4,5)
 - 21 Unconventional (9)

- 24 Last-minute (5)
 - 25 Sleep (7)
 - 26 Hermit (7)
 - 27 Ingenuous (7)
 - 28 Severely simple (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Drawn (7)
 - 2 Detail (7)
 - 3 Fairly (9)
 - 4 Velocity (5)
 - 5 Support one or other cause (4,5)

- 6 Possibly (5)
- 7 An irregularity (7)
- 8 Mistaken (2,5)
- 14 Ready for war (5,4)
- 15 Recognise the truth (4,5)
- 16 Fragrant colourful flower (7)
- 17 Tell in detail (7)
- 19 Risky enterprise (7)
- 20 Raise siege of (7)
- 22 Having lofty ideals (5)
- 23 Approximately, in dates (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4010

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 8, Break-in 9, Fore-sight 13, Ex-act 14, ME-L-on 15, Ab-sence 16, C-and-O-ur 17, M-used 18, Oiled 20, No-mad 22, Egg cup 23, C-an-op-y 25, Cor-rod-e 27, Sh-all-ow 30, S'ta-ti-c (rev) 31, Go d-own 32, Catch 35, 'Ad-ele 36, D(over)-oles 37, Express 39, Pitcher 41, Ch-l-ef 42, Th-in-e 43, Furnished 44, Villa-in.

DOWN: 1, Or-dain 2, Last word 3, Firm friends 4, Join issue 5, Regards 6, First of all 7, When 10, Be-a-con 11, Plum-age 12, Deadly 19, Look out 21, Moo-rage 24, Change of air 26, Raise a hand 28, Collected 29, Cow-slip 30, Scamp-l 32, Capital-L 33, H-as-ten 34, AD-

dress 38, Elic-it 40, T-o-ur (rev).

EASY

ACROSS: 8, Certain 9, Pineapple 13, Alter 14, Voile 15, Trident 16, Terrier 17, Craze 18, Horse 20, Ruing 22, Insult 23, Bitten 25, Ransack 27, Consent 30, Stitch 31, Reveal 32, Break 35, Green 36, Asset 37, Outcome 39, Reached 41, Force 42, Raise 43, Itinerary 44, Cat's-paw.

DOWN: 1, Better 2, Starling 3, Silver birch 4, Miserable 5, Leather 6, Split hairs 7, Blue 10, Matter 11, Discuss 12, Strewn 19, Retinue 21, Imagine 24, Do all one can 26, Second-hand 28, Ceasefire 29, Century 30, Sugary 32, Buttruss 33, Keeper 34, Wanders 38, Origan 40, Alto.



Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports

State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001

Ph: 080-22215601, 22211246. Fax: 080-22215602

No: DYES/Khelo India/36/2025-26
Dated: 17-10-2025

Advertisement

Sri Jayaprakash Narayan National Youth Training Centre is appointing Staff Members on temporary honorarium basis as per the norms and applications are invited from the Eligible Candidates as given below.

Sl No	Details of Trainers / Staff Members	No	Remarks
1	Strength and Conditioning Expert Lead	01	The Interested Candidates must submit their applications in the prescribed format mandatorily to the e-mail id: dyesdept@gmail.com before 5.00 PM of 16-11-2025.
2	Young Professional	01	
3	Masseur(male)	01	

Details of Notification including Application format, Educational Qualification and Honorarium, etc., is available on Youth Empowerment and Sports Department's website dyes.karnataka.gov.in and further details can be obtained during office hours. The Youth Empowerment and Sports department holds the right to withdraw the said advertisement without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-

Commissioner

DIPR/CP/3331/AKAR/2025-26
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports



Mitchell Marsh
Marsh thrilled to see sold-out stadiums

PERTH, PTI: Australia captain Mitchell Marsh on Saturday said playing in “packed out stadiums” against India who will have Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli back in the ranks will be a “great experience” for his group.

With Australia’s focus fixated firmly on the Ashes starting next month, they will take on India across three ODIs and five T20Is starting with the 50-overs game here on Sunday.

“Had the privilege of playing against them quite a lot over the journey,” Marsh told the media talking about playing against Rohit and Kohli.

“They’re obviously legends of the game, Virat is the greatest chaser ever in this format. I think you can see by the ticket sales that a lot of people want to come and watch them.”

“To see the stadium packed out against India, it’s going to be a great experience for our group,” he added.

Marsh said the series will be a high-scoring one against India. “I believe it’s going to be a high scoring affair, but getting through the first 10 overs for both teams will be a challenge and maybe where the game’s won and lost,” he said.

IN BRIEF

DYES edge out SWR

► Dept of Youth Empowerment & Sports 'A' edged out South Western Railway, Hubballi 2-1 in the 9th Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Saturday, reports DHNS.

Result: Dept of Youth Empowerment & Sports 'A': 2 (Yathish Kumar B 8th, Ananth HM 35th) bt South Western Railway, Hubballi: 1 (Vinith 21st).

Anahat bows out in quarters

► Reigning women's national champion Anahat Singh bowed out in the quarterfinals of the Boston Open, after losing to Egypt's Jana Swaify in a five-game thriller, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Delhi teenager Anahat, the world No. 45 and second seed in the tournament, rallied strongly by winning the third and fourth games to take the contest into the decider before her eighth seeded opponent sealed the affair 11-4, 11-9, 6-11, 3-11, 11-5.

Anahat defeated American Charlotte Sze 11-4, 11-6, 9-11, 11-8 in the round-of-16 on Thursday after receiving a first-round bye.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET
Australia vs India: 1st ODI (9:00 am). LIVE on Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar.

Women's WC: India vs England (3:00 pm). LIVE on Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar.

BADMINTON
Denmark Open: Final (3:30 pm). LIVE on Star Sports Select 2 & JioHotstar.

FOOTBALL
EPL: Tottenham vs Aston Villa (6:30 pm); Liverpool vs Manchester United (9:00 pm). LIVE on Star Sports Network & JioHotstar.

La Liga: Elche vs Athletic Club (5:30 pm); Celta Vigo vs Real Sociedad (7:45 pm); Levante vs Rayo Vallecano (10 pm). LIVE on FanCode.

KABADDI
PKL: Telugu Titans vs Gujarat Giants (7:30 pm); U Mumba vs Haryana Steelers (8:30 pm). LIVE on Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar.

GOLF
DP World India Championship: Day 4 (12 noon). LIVE on FanCode.

FORMULA ONE
US GP: Main race (12:30 am, Monday). LIVE on FanCode.

Spotlight on Rohit, Kohli as India take on Australia in the first of three ODIs today



SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The spotlight will be firmly on Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, the celebrated duo who will be returning to international action after seven and a half months with questions hanging around their future as India kick-start their preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup under the new leadership of Shubman Gill.

A lot has happened in Indian cricket over the last fortnight, which has added a lot of impetus for the three-match ODI series against Australia starting Sunday in Perth. After the opening Test against the West Indies in Ahmedabad, the selectors signalled their intention of building a team for the future by replacing veteran Rohit with the young Gill.

Although the 38-year-old Rohit and the 36-year-old Kohli, two legends of the one-day format who last played for India in the successful Champions Trophy final

The Big Battle

India vs Australia in ODIs

	Mats	Ind	Aus	No Res
Overall	152	58	84	10
In Australia	54	14	38	2
Last 10 Mats	10	6	4	0

Record in ODIs in 2025

India	Australia
8 Mats	8
8 Won	2
0 Lost	5
0 No Res	1
100.0% Win%	25.0%

Australia's results in Last 2 ODI series at home

Year	Vs.	Result
2024	Pak	Lost 1-2
2025	SA	Lost 1-2

Schedule

- 1st ODI: October 19 (Perth)
- 2nd ODI: October 23 (Adelaide)
- 3rd ODI: October 25 (Sydney)

All games LIVE 9 AM Star Sports Network & JioHotstar

Compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

against New Zealand in March, retained their spots, it's no surprise their performances Down Under will come under intense scrutiny.

Rohit, the only player to score three double centuries in ODIs and who reinvented the way India batted in 50 overs when he took charge in December 2021, has made it clear on numerous occasions that he's determined to win the one title missing in his glowing resume — the ODI World Cup. His record-breaking performances in 2019 where he smashed five centuries saw India fall in the semis before suffering a massive heartbreak four years later in Ahmedabad when India were swept away by Australia in the final. That pain still stings a lot of the players — even fans — and Rohit believes a redemption in 2027 is the only way to heal it.

Problem though is his age, which is the worst ally for an athlete no matter how fit or passionate they are. When the World Cup happens, Rohit will be 40. Yes, athletes have been pushing boundaries and even Rohit, whose culinary habits are a bit generous, has gone the extra mile. He's worked hard on his fitness, shed a lot of pounds and trained hard for the series.

Kohli, who has moved to London now, looks the same as he was a decade ago. More important-



The spotlight will be firmly on Rohit Sharma (left) and Virat Kohli during the course of the ODI series against Australia. AFP

Fighting K'taka settle for a draw

BENGALURU, DHNS

As the umpires called tea on the third day after Shreyas Gopal had pinned Chetan Sakariya, Saurashtra had taken a crucial four-run lead and the outcome of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group B opener against Karnataka seemed very much predictable.

The fourth day, however, turned out nothing as expected as Shreyas' fighting effort (3/43) went in vain as Saurashtra clung onto a tense draw after surviving a batting scare at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot on the fourth and final day.

Karnataka were bowled out for 232, setting Saurashtra a 229-run target. With under two sessions to go, the task was pretty straightforward for the hosts to bat out the remaining overs and take the three points which was already in the bag.

Opener Harvik Desai took the aggressive route, hitting three quick boundaries to put the Karnataka bowlers under pressure, while his partner at the other end, Chirag Jani, remained a little conservative.



Mayank Agarwal scored a 126-ball 64 in Karnataka's second innings against Saurashtra in their Ranji Trophy opener at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot. PTI FILE PHOTO

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (1 Innings): 372 all out
SAURASHTRA (1 Innings): 376 all out
KARNATAKA (1 Innings O/n: 89/1): Nikin Jose lbw b Gajjar 34, Mayank Agarwal c Mankad b Jadeja 64, Devdutt Padikkal c Desai b Unadkat 19, Karun Nair lbw Jadeja 8, Smaran R c Mankad b Unadkat 10, KL Shriji lbw b Dodiya 31, Shreyas Gopal c Gosai b Dodiya 3, Shikhar Shetty b Jadeja 3, M Venkatesh c Vasavada b Dodiya 28, Mohsin Khan st Desai b Gajjar 17, Abhilash Shetty (not out) 1. Extras (B-12, LB-2) 14. **TOTAL (all out, 74.2 overs) 232.**

Fall of wickets: 1-52 (Jose), 2-96 (Padikkal), 3-111 (Nair), 4-124 (Smaran), 5-164 (Agarwal), 6-169 (Shreyas), 7-176 (Shriji), 8-180 (Shikhar), 9-231 (Mohsin)

Bowling: Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 28-7-79-3, Jaydev Unadkat 14-2-49-2, Yuvraj Singh batted 15.2-3-40-3, Chetan Sakariya 8-0-25-0, Sammar Gajjar 8-1-25-2, Ansh Gosai 1-1-0-0.

SAURASHTRA (2 Innings): Harvik Desai c Abhilash b Shreyas 13, Chirag Jani b Shreyas 15, Sammar Gajjar (not out) 43, Ansh Gosai b Shreyas 2, Arpit Vasavada c Anesh b Shikhar 2, Jay Gohil lbw Mohsin 41, Prerak Mankad (not out) 4. Extras (LB-4, B-4) 8. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 43 overs) 128.**

Fall of wickets: 1-21 (Desai), 2-36 (Jani), 3-40 (Gosai), 4-43 (Vasavada), 5-124 (Gohil).

Bowling: Abhilash Shetty 3-1-2-0, Shikhar Shetty 14-4-40-1, Shreyas Gopal 15-1-43-3, Mohsin Khan 9-2-30-1, M Venkatesh 1-0-5-0.

Result: Match drawn after Saurashtra took the first innings lead. **Saurashtra: 3 points; Karnataka: 1 point.**

Karnataka's next match: Vs Goa (Oct 25-28, Shivamogga).

Other Group B brief scores: At Thiruvananthapuram: Maharashtra: 239 & (O/n: 51/0) 224/2 in 71 overs (Prithvi Shaw 75, Arshin Kulkarni 34, Siddhesh Veer 55 n.o., Ruturaj Gaikwad 55 n.o.) drew with Kerala: 219. **Maharashtra: 3; Kerala: 1.**

At Porvurim: Goa: 566 bt Chandigarh: 137 & (O/n: 159/3) 354 all out in 91.4 overs (Arjun Azad 141, Bhagmender Lather 38, Ankit Kaushik 82, Mayank Sidhu 33 n.o.; Darshan Misal 5-124, Mohit Redkar 3-39). **Goa: 7; Chandigarh: 0.**

At Indore: Punjab: 232 & 143/5 in 63.2 overs (Jaskaranvir Singh Paul 28, Uday Saharan 36; Shubham Sharma 3-20, Kumar Kartikeya 2-33) drew with Madhya Pradesh: 519/8. **Madhya Pradesh: 3; Punjab: 1.**

trickier as Shreyas picked up his third, breaching the defences of Ansh Gosai's (2).

Left-arm orthodox Shikhar Shetty (1/40) added to Saurashtra's struggles, sending Arpit Vasavada (2) back to the hut.

The Karnataka bowlers, led by Shreyas, went full throttle to try and breach into their mid-

Afghans pull out of tri-series in Pak after three domestic cricketers die in attacks

KABUL, PTI: Afghanistan has decided to withdraw from the upcoming tri-nation T20I series involving Pakistan, following the death of three Afghan cricketers in what it claimed was a “cowardly attack carried out by the Pakistani regime,” the country's cricket board announced.

The series involving Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka was scheduled to be played in Rawalpindi and Lahore between November 17-29.

In a strongly worded statement, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) said it was “deeply saddened” by the “tragic martyrdom” of the players — Kabeeer, Sibghatullah and Haroon — who, along with five others from Urgun District in Paktika Province, were killed when they were attacked after returning from a friendly match in Sharana, the provincial capital.

Seven others were injured in the incident.

“The Afghanistan Cricket Board expresses its deepest sorrow and grief over the



A handout of the three Afghan cricketers who were killed. PTI

tragic martyrdom of the brave cricketers from Urgun District in Paktika Province, who were targeted this evening in a cowardly attack carried out by the Pakistani regime,” ACB said.

“In response of this tragic incident and as a gesture of respect to the victims, the ACB has decided to withdraw from participating in the upcoming Tri-Nation T20I Series involving Pakistan, scheduled to be played in late November,” it added.

The International Cricket Council and the Board of Control for Cricket in India condemned the attacks and showed solidarity with Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe will replace Afghanistan in the tournament.

NZ-Pak game washed out, SA qualify for semis

COLOMBO, PTI: The women's World Cup match between New Zealand and Pakistan was on Saturday abandoned due to incessant rain, a result which confirmed South Africa's qualification in the semifinals.

Heavy rains interrupted the proceedings twice and play could be possible for only 25 overs. Pakistan made 92 for five in that 25 overs after being asked to bat.

In fact, this was the fourth match to end without any result at this venue in the island nation's capital after the abandoned games between Sri Lanka and Australia, Sri Lanka versus New Zealand and England against Pakistan.

Both New Zealand and Pakistan have had each of their last two matches washed out.

After Saturday's result, South Africa became the second team after Australia to make it to the World Cup semifinals.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 92/5 in 25 overs (Aliya Riaz 28 n.o.; Lea Tahuu 2-20) vs New Zealand.

Result: Match abandoned due to rain.

Today's match: India vs England.

Beleaguered Indian women face test of character in crunch clash

Harmanpreet and Co will eye crucial two points against unbeaten England

▼

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

When the Women's ODI World Cup schedule was out, one might have looked at October 19 and circled it as a clash of two heavyweights: India and England, who would be on the verge of securing their semifinal spots, having stamped their authority.

England have been right up there — at times faulty but firm most times — with a top-two

finish very much in their grasp.

On the other side, India have waded into some trouble having hit a roadblock, with back-to-back three-wicket losses at the hands of South Africa and Australia.

While the hosts would have hoped to bulldoze their way into semifinals, the step has become a little steeper with eyebrows being raised about their progress in the event.

India are desperate to find their mojo. And they will have the opportunity to when they meet England at the Holkar Stadium in Indore on Sunday.

Problems aplenty

India's five-bowler strategy, one which is filled with all-rounders, has been exposed by top teams, forcing a strategic rethink. The hosts now need two wins from their



India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur will be looking to lead from the front when they take on England in Indore today. PTI

remaining three to ensure they aren't thrown out of their own party.

India's obsession over batting depth has made them

Team	Played	Won	Lost	N/R	NRR	Points
Australia (Q)	5	4	0	1	+1.818	9
S Africa (Q)	5	4	1	0	-0.440	8
England	4	3	0	1	+1.864	7
India	4	2	2	0	+0.682	4
New Zealand	5	1	2	2	-0.245	4
Bangladesh	5	1	4	0	-0.676	2
Sri Lanka	5	0	3	2	-1.564	2
Pakistan	5	0	3	2	-1.887	2

LIVE 3 PM, STAR SPORTS NETWORK

bench a genuine wicket-taking option for an all-rounder, which has turned out to be their undoing.

And during both defeats, the post-match talks have been identical — blame on the batting and death bowling.

However, Amol Muzumdar has hinted at least one change. Renuka Singh could come in

place of Harleen Deol as the team looks for more penetration in the pace department.

And it isn't only the tactics that have let them down. The players, too, have not met expectations.

The problems start right at the top. Smriti Mandhana has often scored consistently, inspiring India to quick starts

that have laid the foundation for the middle-order to take over. However, except for the Australia game, she has seemed off-colour.

India have also lacked a dynamic middle-order to carry on after top-order setbacks, with Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues having struggled to get going.

The repair work, however, has come only in the form of Deepti Sharma and Richa Ghosh.

Despite falling short, the batting order might not be disturbed, considering the amount of backroom trust the batting group has won.

It would be interesting to see if India take the aggressive approach by playing an extra seamer or continue to back their batting to do the heavy lifting.

As for England, they may be unbeaten but they have had problems of their own.

While their top-order has been fragile, they have had to bank on their skipper Nat Sciver Brunt and former captain Heather Knight to bail them out of tough situations. They also have the rain gods to thank against Pakistan, while they were staring at a possible defeat.

England have seven points and are just one win away from the knockouts and all the pressure is on India, who face a test of their character in the crunch clash.

India, having been pushed into a corner by their own failures, will hope to stand up, fight and come out of the hole they have dug themselves into before they slip to a point of no return.

TIME TO STEP UP

Behind every forehand and flight ticket lies the relentless grind of Indian women’s tennis

The long RALLY

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

When it comes to women's tennis in India, there's only one name that pops up instantly: Sania Mirza. From breaking into the top 30 in singles with a career-high ranking of world No. 27 in 2007 to winning six Grand Slam doubles titles, Sania made the game a movement. Her success made millions of young girls believe that a racket could change their lives.

"There is a tremendous increase in the number of girls taking up tennis nowadays. The number was far less earlier before it all changed after Sania's success," experienced coach Jayant Khade tells *DH*.

But here's the part that stings. Despite inspiring a generation until her retirement in 2023, Sania remains an anomaly. For all her success and the millions she motivated, no Indian woman has yet come close to replicating her level of achievement on the global stage.

A quick look at the current WTA singles rankings makes that gap clear. Sahaja Yamalapalli sits as India's highest-ranked singles player at world No. 347, followed by Shrivalli Bhamidipaty at No. 377. It doesn't exactly inspire confidence in a country obsessed with champions, yet, true fans of the sport wonder what did Sania do differently?

In India, most players start competing around the age of eight, participating in local AITA events and later in ITF junior tournaments abroad until they turn 18. Since Sania's rise, names like Prerna Bham-bri, Mahak Jain, Riya Bhatia and Zeel Desai have emerged from the system.

They've all tasted success at the national level, and many even broke into junior Grand Slam main draws. But the moment they turn 18 and step into the pro circuit, everything changes.



Sania Mirza, with her unprecedented success for an Indian women's tennis player, inspired a generation of girls to take up tennis. While the numbers keep swelling every year, the standard she set remains unmatched. AFP FILE PHOTO

That's where the grind truly begins.

To climb the WTA rankings, players chase points across continents, competing week after week in ITF events, before advancing to WTA 125 and 250 tournaments once they earn enough points. A player's ranking is calculated based on their best 18 performances in a calendar year; a system that sounds fair on paper but punishing in reality.

It's brutal in the early stages. Most youngsters rack up more losses than wins while competing in 25 to 30 tournaments annually. The physical

and mental toll is immense as the pro circuit isn't just about talent, it's a test of resilience.

"The transition from juniors to the pro level is tough for everyone," says India's No. 1 Sahaja Yamalapalli, who recently stunned former US Open champion Sloane Stephens. "There were times it was frustrating, but I learned to see losses as part of the process. Every match, even the tough ones, helped me understand what I needed to improve. I focused on growing rather than getting discouraged, and that shift really helped me stay consistent."

The bigger challenge, however, lies in funding the dream. Tennis is notoriously expensive, and parents shoulder most of the cost early on, including travel, accommodation, coaching and nutrition. Those expenses skyrocket once players start traveling abroad with a coach or a trainer. For women, the costs often double, since traveling alone can be risky; and to top it off, the prize money at women's events remains lower than men's.

That's why many top Indian talents choose the US collegiate system. It's a golden ticket, not just for free

education, but for access to top-notch facilities, physiotherapists and structured athletic programmes that India still struggles to provide.

The trade off, however, is limited participation in WTA events during those four college years. Some skip college to stay on tour but find themselves struggling for sponsors to cover their growing expenses.

"I didn't take multiple opportunities for scholarship in US collegiate but I would recommend others to not miss out on it for the exposure it brings and how it changes you as an athlete once you come out of it," says India's No. 3 Riya Bhatia, who still doesn't have a sponsor and relies on prize money and her public-sector job to keep her tennis dreams alive.

To ease the financial burden, players often turn to the All India Tennis Association (AITA) or seek government aid. States like Gujarat and Maharashtra offer financial assistance, while the Sports Ministry's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) provides funding to medal hopefuls. But that support typically arrives only a year before a multi-sport event, often too late for those struggling through the grind.

A more immediate fix would be hosting more international tournaments within India. It would drastically cut travel costs and allow players to accumulate ranking points without

rest are ITF Women's World Tennis Tour tournaments, which offer smaller prize pools and fewer ranking points. Compare that with China, which has 38 events, including three high-profile WTA 500 and Masters tournaments, and five WTA 125s.

Yet despite these hurdles, the country's best players continue to fight on. Later this year, India's top women – including Sahaja and Riya – will join forces in Bengaluru for one of their biggest tests yet: the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs.

While India returns to the stage after a gap of four years, the format has changed this time. Instead of the old home-and-away knockout ties, it's now a three-team round-robin group. India has been drawn in Group G, alongside two-time runners-up Netherlands and 2003 quarterfinalists Slovenia, with matches set for November 14-16 in Bengaluru.

Given the strength of their opponents, India will look to make the most of their home advantage. It won't be easy – not without Sania – but the team's spirit is far from broken.

"You have to play with the cards in your hands, isn't it?" says India's captain Vishal Uppal. "Obviously Sania is retired so we have to figure out the best we can do to win. It's an uphill challenge for us; but we don't know how to back down either."

For India's women, that's always been the story; a mix of dreams, grit and grind. Sania lit the path two decades ago but today's players are still running the marathon she started, one tough match and one long flight at a time.



Sahaja Yamalapalli

Ashoka for main event

HYDERABAD SELECTIONS

The top weighted Ashoka, from the stables of Donald Netto, will garner the maximum support in the upper division of the Bold Venture Plate, the feature event of the Hyderabad races run over a sprint at the races on Sunday. The first race starts at 12:40 pm.

1. **Venus De Milo Plate - 1400M:** Bold Indian 1; Golden Unicorn 2; Muaser 3.

2. **Bold Venture Plate (Div II) - 1200M:** Diablo 1; Espionage 2; Vivaldo 3.

3. **Rani Rudrama Devi Cup - 1600M:** NRI Ultrapower 1; Gloria 2; Just Incredible 3.

4. **Hard Held Plate - 1600M:** Lake Michigan 1; Bestie 2; Authoritarian 3.

5. **Kinnerasani Cup - 1400M:** Miss Smiley Angel 1; Pride Aside 2; Gold Giver 3.

6. **Bold Venture Plate (Div I) - 1200M:** Ashoka 1; Lashka 2.

7. **Peddapalli Plate - 1200M:** Cape May 1; Chersih The Lady 2; Swiss Girl 3.

Day's best: Miss Smiley Angel.

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **1 treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **11 treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

FOOTBALL

Haaland takes City to top

Sunderland, Burnley collect wins; Palace, Bournemouth play out 3-3 draw

LONDON, AFP

ANGE Postecoglou's reign as Nottingham Forest manager was ended after a 3-0 defeat to Chelsea on Saturday as Erling Haaland took Manchester City top of the Premier League by scoring twice in a 2-0 win over Everton.

Postecoglou was sacked after just eight games and 40 days in charge at the City Ground, making his the shortest ever managerial stint in Premier League history.

Forest picked up just one point from the Australian's five league games and were also dumped out of the League Cup by second-tier Swansea.

Clubowner Evangelos Marinakis left his seat during the match as Chelsea took control in the second half and Postecoglou's fate was confirmed shortly after full-time.

Forest are already looking for their third manager of the season after Nuno Espirito Santo was dismissed last month.

Chelsea had to survive an early onslaught before two goals in three minutes early in the second period swung



Erling Haaland (right) scored a brace in Manchester City's 2-0 victory over Everton at the Etihad Stadium. REUTERS

the game in the Blues' favour.

Unstoppable Haaland

Haaland's unstoppable form is dragging City into title contention as the Norwegian took his tally for the season to 23 goals in 13 games for club and country.

After two defeats in their opening three Premier League matches, Pep Guardiola's men are now unbeaten in eight games in all competitions.

Haaland proved the match-winner once more with two clinical finishes in five minutes either side of the hour mark at the Etihad.

He used all of his 1.95-metre (6ft 5in) frame to power in a

header from Nico O'Reilly's cross to break the deadlock.

Haaland then had a helping hand from Jordan Pickford for his second as the England goalkeeper failed to keep out a low shot to his left.

Bournemouth were denied top spot by Jean-Philippe Mateta's 97th minute penalty to complete his hat-trick and salvage a 3-3 draw for Crystal Palace. Two goals from Eli Junior Kroupi put the Cherries 2-0 up at Selhurst Park at half-time.

Palace lost for the first time in 20 matches in their last outing at Everton.

The Eagles avoided another defeat thanks to the in-form Mateta, who was fresh from

scoring his first international goal for France.

Mateta struck twice to level before Ryan Christie turned in Marcus Tavernier's cross in the 89th minute to restore Bournemouth's lead.

However, Andoni Iraola's men were denied another huge win when Mateta stroked home from the spot after wantaway Palace captain Marc Guehi was fouled inside the box.

The Magpies have yet to win away in the Premier League this season and slipped to 11th, behind local rivals Sunderland.

The Black Cats climbed up to seventh with a 2-0 victory over Wolves, which left the visitors five points off safety at the bottom of the table.

Burnley climbed out of the bottom three thanks to goals from Lesley Ugochukwu and Loum Tchaouna to beat Leeds 2-0.

Results: Nottingham Forest: 0 It to Chelsea: 3 (Acheampong 49th, Neto 52nd, James 84th); Manchester City: 2 (Haaland 58th, 63rd) bt Everton: 0; Sunderland: 2 (Mukiele 16th, Kiejci 90th+2 own goal) bt Wolves: 0; Brighton: 2 (Welbeck 41st, 84th) bt Newcastle: 1 (Woltemade 76th); Burnley: 2 (Ugochukwu 18th, Tchaouna 58th) bt Leeds: 0; Crystal Palace: 3 (Mateta 64th, 69th, 90th+7 pen) bt Bournemouth: 3 (Kroupi 7th, 38th, Christie 89th).

Barca snatch win

Ronald Araujo struck at the death to snatch Barcelona a 2-1 win over Girona on Saturday and lift the champions top of La Liga.

Result: Barcelona: 2 (Pedri 13th, Araujo 90th+3) bt Girona: 1 (Witsel 20th).

Fearless Tanvi storms into final

GUWAHATI, PTI

INDIA's top seeded Tanvi Sharma produced a near-perfect match against China's Liu Si Ya to storm into the final of the BWF World Junior Championships here on Saturday.

The 16-year-old Tanvi followed the footsteps of former world No.1 Saina Nehwal and Aparna Popat to become only the third Indian female player to qualify for the final of the tournament, recording a 15-11, 15-9 win over her opponent.

Tanvi will now play against the second-seeded Anyapat Phichitpreechasak from Thailand, who fought back from a game down to beat compatriot Yataweemin Ketkieng 10-15, 15-11, 15-5 in the other semifinal.

Tanvi had assured India of a medal in the World Junior Championships for the first

time in 17 years and she came out fighting against Li from the first point in their semifinal clash.

She wasn't afraid to unleash the late flicks and cross-court pushes from the front court and remained ahead in the game.

The Indian worked to a 7-3 lead in the opening game and even though Liu managed to narrow the gap to 8-7 at one stage, Tanvi did not flinch.

Tanvi finished the first game in mere 13 minutes as she never allowed Liu to set into her rhythm and in the second set, she was up to a 12-4 lead in quick time to indicate which way the match was headed.

Though there was a phase where Tanvi was not at her best, she bounced back with another perfectly weighted down-the-line smash on the Chinese's serve.



India's Tanvi Sharma beat China's Liu Si Ya 15-11, 15-9 to seal her place in the final. PTI

Satwik-Chirag exit after semifinal loss

ODENSE, PTI: India's Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fell agonisingly short of a final berth, going down to Japan's Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi in their men's doubles clash at the Denmark Open Super 750 here on Saturday.

The Asian Games champions, who had reached back-to-back finals at the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750, displayed tremendous grit to bounce back after losing the opening game.

But the Indian duo faded in the closing stages of the decider to go down 21-23, 21-18, 16-21 against the 2021 world champions in a 68-minute contest saw a battle of lightning-fast exchanges and razor-sharp rallies.

With their exit, India's campaign at the USD 950,000 tournament came to an end.

Coming into the match with a 4-1 head-to-head advantage and three consecutive wins over the Japanese pair, the world No. 7 Indians started as favourites on paper.

But former winners Hoki and Kobayashi showed better initiative, precision and coordination to outwit the Indians at crucial junctures.

Bulls dismantle Dabang to reach top eight

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bengaluru Bulls confirmed their place in the top eight with a comprehensive 33-23 win against Dabang Delhi in a Pro Kabaddi Season 12 match at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium here on Saturday.

Alireza Mirzaian notched another Super 10, also registering the most raid points by an overseas player in a PKL Season.

The Bulls defenders also played their part with Sanjay registering four tackles, and Yogesh and Deepak bagging three tackles each. The win also helps Bengaluru Bulls move to third place on the points table.

Prateek bags 200m bronze

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's D Prateek clocked 21.30 seconds in the men's 200m race to take home a bronze medal during the third and final day of the Indian Open U-23 athletics competition held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Outdoor Stadium in Hanamkonda (Telangana) on Saturday. Odisha's Dondapati clocked 21.10 seconds to win gold, while Haryana's Raja Babu (21.26) settled for silver.

Historic bronze for Jyothi

NANJING (CHINA), PTI

DECORATED Indian archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam on Saturday became the first Indian woman compound archer to win a medal at the World Cup Final, clinching the bronze with a flawless performance here.

The reigning Asian Games champion was at her imperious best against World No. 2 Ella Gibson of Great Britain, shooting 15 perfect arrows to prevail 150-145 and secure



Jyothi Surekha Vennam

her maiden podium finish in the tournament.

The eight-archer World Cup

season finale saw the 29-year-old Indian begin with a confident 143-140 win over Alexis Ruiz of the USA in the quarter-finals.

Jyothi, however, went down narrowly to World No. 1 Andreea Becerra of Mexico 143-145 in the semifinals after a closely-fought contest.

Jyothi briefly led by one point after the third end but Becerra hit three 10s in the fourth end to edge ahead 116-115 and sealed the final spot by taking the fifth end 29-28.

Australia edge India to clinch Johor Cup

JOHOR BAHRU (MALAYSIA), PTI

IAN Grobbelaar struck twice, including a decisive penalty corner in the dying minutes, as Australia piped India 2-1 to win their third Sultan of Johor Cup under-21 hockey title, here on Saturday.

Grobbelaar opened the scoring in the 13th minute with a perfectly-executed drag flick just before the end of the first quarter.

Three-time former champi-

ons India responded in the second quarter through Anmol Ekka, who converted a penalty corner in the 17th minute to level the match at 1-1.

The third quarter ended goalless, leaving the teams tied heading into the final 15 minutes.

With the game on a knife's edge, Australia converted their 11th penalty corner of the match with just two minutes remaining, and Grobbelaar struck his second goal to seal the 2-1 win.

India earned six consecutive penalty corners in the final minute but could not capitalise, with goalkeeper Magnus McCausland producing crucial saves.

The victory allowed Australia to finally break their streak of three successive final defeats since the loss against India in 2022.

With this win, they also avenged the defeat three years ago.

This was their third Sultan of Johor Cup title overall.

ILLUSIONS
AND
DELUSIONS



TCA Ranganathan
The former chairman of the Export Import Bank of India is a banker with a theory of everything
✉ [@tcartca](#)

Breaking to build: What the Nobel for economics tells India

This year’s Nobel Prize in Economics may help us in India resolve a long-standing paradox: how can a country be a global growth leader and yet remain a manufacturing underachiever? India is indisputably one of the world’s fastest-growing economies. Our services sector is booming. Digital platforms are thriving. Financial and real estate markets are vibrant. And yet, in manufacturing – the job-rich, export-driven engine of transformation that most countries prize – we continue to punch much below our weight.

The 2025 Nobel, awarded to Philippe Aghion, Peter Howitt, and Joel Mokyr, celebrates the disruptive force of “creative destruction” – the process by which innovation topples old industries and clears the way for new ones. It’s messy. It’s painful. It destroys before it creates. But it is essential for progress. It also forces us to ponder why the continual churn of creative destruction fuels manufacturing growth. What kind of environment allows it to flourish? And why hasn’t India built one?

Joseph Schumpeter famously described cre-

ative destruction as capitalism’s secret weapon. But capitalism, as Adam Smith warned, is not always benign. In *The Wealth of Nations*, he observed: “People of the same trade seldom meet together... but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public.” Entrepreneurs thrive when they are close to power – not always with an intent to corrupt, but close enough to whisper. Also, in small countries like Japan or South Korea, a few national champions may suffice for manufacturing success. But in vast nations like China or India, success demands creating many more champions. But then arises the risk that these cronies may exploit, conspire, or even harm.

The irony is striking, as creative destruction itself needs cronyism to thrive. Deng Xiaoping understood this paradox. He saw that entrepreneurial energy could be harnessed – even within a socialist system – if competition was encouraged and economic power was decentralised. The trick is to make cronyism competitive, not corrupt. Thus, Deng retooled socialism after Mao. By giving China’s 600+

cities control over land, investment, and industrial policy, he created a competitive ecosystem where local governments backed their own champions. Over half of China’s public spending is managed locally, in a system of “competitive cronyism”, where multiple local governments, competing with each other, can nurture their own industrial adventurers. It thus needs understanding that it is the economic structure, not ideology, that determines success. Centralised control stifles innovation and creative destruction. Decentralised competition fuels it.

The results are staggering. China has overwhelming global manufacturing dominance and a near choke-hold over a variety of new-age high-tech sectors, including chips, EVs, robotics, battery manufacturing, and AI, many backed by the local/provincial government. We, on the other hand, are not able to reduce our import dependence on them despite the uncomfortable diplomatic relations.

Deng’s genius was to create multiple centres of power. Each city has its own industrial

ambitions, champions, and incentives. This fragmented patronage system has accelerated innovation. Cronyism became a tool for experimentation, not stagnation or exploitation.

India has a federal structure, but not the locally available fiscal muscle. While state governments do control around 30-40% of public expenditure, most, if not all, of them are giant-sized themselves, far larger in population and geographical size than most peer countries. We have only a small number of urban bodies, and most are financially dependent on state capitals, with limited authority to shape industrial ecosystems. The result is that while the services and construction/real estate sectors do undoubtedly flourish, as also do low-risk manufacturing like paints/wires and cables, the higher-risk, longer-gestation technological manufacturing does not.

Industrial R&D and resultant experimentation are low. And then, there’s the matter of dealing with business failure. If creative destruction is the engine of innovation, insolvency law is the shock absorber. Here, India and

the US are opposites. In the US, bankruptcy is a second chance. Entrepreneurs who fail aren’t criminalised; they’re often celebrated. In India, default can trigger liquidation and criminal liability. The stigma of failure lingers long after the books are closed. This matters. Entrepreneurs take risks. They cut corners. Sometimes, they fail. If the system punishes failure too harshly, it stifles the very spirit of creative destruction this year’s Nobel celebrates.

We have the ingredients: a federal structure, entrepreneurial energy, and a hunger for growth. What we lack is the enabling architecture – fiscal decentralisation, empowered cities, and performance-linked incentives for local officials and leeway to handle business failure.

If we want our own gale of creative destruction, we must build the wind tunnels. Adam Smith warned us that businessmen conspire. Schumpeter told us capitalism survives by destroying itself. Deng showed us socialism can do the same, if it decentralises wisely. We must now reflect: do we continue to fear the gale, or now start learning how to ride it?

KNOWN UNKNOWNNS

Understanding the many Ravanas

During my visits to Vijayawada as a child, I often heard names like Patamata Lanka and Krishna Lanka. Curious, I asked whether these were connected to Lanka in the *Ramayana* – the golden island ruled by Ravana. That was when I first learnt that in Telugu, Lanka means an island, usually one formed in the river’s flow. This learning made me wonder whether the Lanka of the *Ramayana* was Sri Lanka, as most believe, or some other island. And, like many Lankas, perhaps many Ravanas exist too.

In the mainstream imagination, Ravana is the ten-headed demon king whose arrogance and desire led to his downfall at the hands of Lord Rama. Yet, even Valmiki’s *Ramayana* describes him as more than a villain: he was a learned scholar, a master of the Vedas and music, a ruler of rare administrative ability, and a devoted follower of Lord Shiva. His golden Lanka was prosperous and well-governed. His undoing lay not in ignorance but in pride – the belief that his brilliance placed him beyond moral restraint.

Other retellings add further layers. The *Ananda Ramayana* and some Jain texts portray him as a noble monarch undone by destiny rather than vice. In Sri Lankan and Tamil traditions, Ravana is remembered as a warrior-king, healer, and inventor, said to have mastered aerial travel through the Pushpaka Vimana. These diverse portrayals suggest that Ravana’s story has long been open to interpretation and shaped by culture, geography, and time.

Across several regions of India, particularly in the south and central heartlands, Ravana is remembered with nuance and even respect. In Andhra and Telangana, elders speak of his deep devotion to Shiva – the very act that sanctified Rameswaram. In parts of Karnataka, his *Ravana Dandakam* is sung as a hymn. In Tamil folklore, he is often seen as a tragic hero whose strength and scholarship could not overcome fate.

Among the Gond communities of central India, the narrative takes an even more striking turn. For the Gonds of Maharashtra’s Gadchiroli and Chhatisgarh’s Bastar regions, Ravana is not a demon but an ancestral king. During the Dussehra of Paraswadi, they raise a tall wooden image of Ravana to honour him.

Such traditions reveal how India’s cultural landscape accommodates multiple truths. This diversity speaks to the depth of India’s storytelling heritage – one that allows space for both reverence and reflection.

Ravana’s life encapsulates the duality of human greatness. A scholar, musician, philosopher, and ruler, he embodied intellect and ambition. His *Shiva Tandava Stotra* remains one of the most profound hymns of devotion ever composed. Yet, his extraordinary gifts were matched by an equally powerful ego. His refusal to yield to wisdom, even from his brother Vibhishana, led him into conflict beyond repair.

In the end, his downfall was not caused by weakness but by an excess of talent, confidence, and pride. His story is a reminder that strength without humility can corrode even the most brilliant mind.

Ravana demonstrates how intellect, discipline, and innovation can build a flourishing realm – yet also how self-assurance can slide into arrogance. Surrounded by courtiers who echoed his thoughts, he silenced the one voice of dissent that could have saved him.

For modern organisations, the message is clear: when leaders stop listening, empires – corporate or otherwise – begin to erode from within. Vision must be paired with humility; conviction balanced by empathy. Leadership is not about being infallible but about creating an environment where truth can be spoken freely.

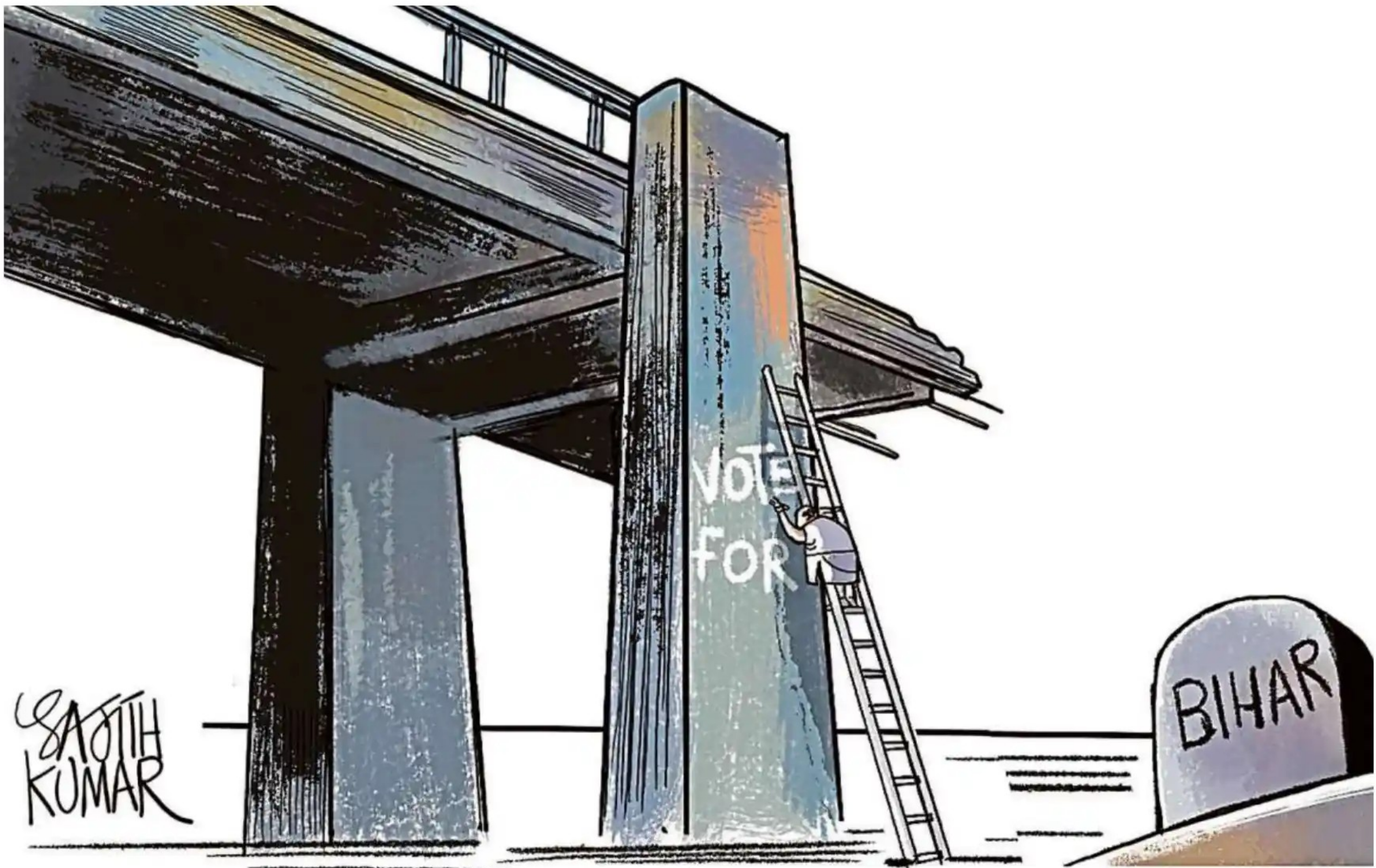
Ravana also exemplifies the tension between individual brilliance and collective good. His unchecked pursuit of power turned knowledge into destruction. Sustainable leadership demands a balance between ambition and responsibility. This is the very balance that the *Ramayana* ultimately upholds.

Ravana endures because he is more than an antagonist. He is intellect and ego, devotion and defiance, strength and solitude – humanity writ large. To understand him is to confront the fine line between aspiration and arrogance that every generation must navigate.

And perhaps that is why his story continues to resonate – from the islands of Krishna Lanka to the forests of Bastar, from Rameswaram’s shrines to Sri Lanka’s hills. Ravana’s legend reminds us that greatness without humility courts ruin – and that wisdom, wherever it arises, is worth listening to.



Gopichand Katragadda
The former CTO of Tata Group and founder of AI company Myelin Foundry is driven to peel off known facts to discover unknown layers
✉ [@Gkatragadda](#)



THE Z FACTOR

Is Gen Z, finally, ready to log off?

For close to three decades after the dot-com boom and the consequent bust, the world has been ruled by the internet. Are we finally becoming tired of it? The signs are everywhere. The average time that people spent on social media grew one-and-a-half times from 2012 to 2018. Since then, it has remained flat. In 2022-23, this figure evidently peaked; it has since fallen.

When the pandemic came around, people believed that remote work would be the future. But surveys show that Gen Z employees despise working from home more than their older colleagues. This year, one Gallup poll found that only 23% of Gen Z workers would choose an exclusively remote job, compared to 35% of all other workers.

Gen Z also, shockingly, enjoys shopping in physical stores. According to one industry study conducted last year, shoppers in their teens and twenties were as unlikely to prefer online shopping as their digitally uncomfortable grandparents.

These trends are increasingly indisputable, but they make sense. Today’s teenagers and young adults grew up in a world essentially designed to increase convenience and speed by reducing human interaction. Three decades ago, you needed to go to the travel agent to book trains and flights, the supermarket to buy groceries,

and the film processing centre to develop photos. Now, you can do all of the above instantly, online, at home. Yet, the kids are sick of the disconnect and loneliness that this has caused.

There is a tragedy here. The most digitally connected generation in history may now be craving human connection more than any other. Yet, it is also the most afraid

Mohamed Zeeshan is a student of all things global and, self-confessedly, master of none, notwithstanding his Columbia Master’s, a stint with the UN and with monarchs in the Middle East
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es and opportunities that lie ahead.

The decline in human interaction could pose very real economic challenges for today’s teenagers as they come of age. In an era where AI takes away lonely desk jobs, workers of the future might need to lean more on their social skills to land a job. AI may be able to write code, develop plans and strategies, and draft emails and newsletters. But it can never occupy jobs that require physical interactions with human beings. If you want to compete with the robots, you can’t just emulate them; you’ll have to pres-ent employers with the skills that the robots cannot replicate.

This is as much a parenting challenge as it is a skilling challenge. Amid hectic work schedules, many young parents increasingly see the smartphone as a quick fix to appease the toddler who cries for attention or the petulant teenager who has too many demands. But the damage that strategy is doing to the child’s growth is all too real.

For tomorrow’s businesses, there lies an opportunity to move rapidly on the growing offline market. For decades, investors and inventors have focused their energies and resources on building digital solutions for everyday problems. But as younger generations crave genuine human experiences – in flesh and blood – those who cater to that innate demand will do best.

Man, as they say, was always a social animal.



Capt G R Gopinath (Retd.)
builds bridges, sometimes by tearing down walls. He is a soldier, farmer, and entrepreneur

public transit can meet the rush at reduced environmental costs. In Bengaluru, credit is due to successive governments that have backed the Metro.

The social media outrage is set against the backdrop of a binary – underperforming, unresponsive governments vs the middle and upper classes that demand efficient systems and accountability. Millions, however, are separated from this discourse: construction labourers, factory workers, plumbers, masons, electricians, carpenters, employees in hotels, spas, and salons, house helps, street vendors, and others who constitute the city’s shadow economy. For them, public transportation is not one of the multiple commute options to tick – it is the only option they have.

In our society today, one plucks what is not his, another distributes, yet another partakes. We are all often beneficiaries of the corrupt system; we are all culpable, and no one feels accountable. Our political leaders have a fair point when they note that criticism aimed only to malign is not constructive. Urban planning is weighed down by entrenched inefficiencies, corruption, and conflicting interests – a system no leadership has marked for serious reform. Shivakumar may have bared his soul in sharing his despair and helplessness, but those who get elected to govern the state and civil servants who hold office to administer cannot react like the public.

Hope is the invisible fuel of life. And if the youth and the masses are robbed of hope, it portends ill for our society. There are warning signs from India’s neighbourhood, where dissent is toppling apathetic political systems. The discontent was simmering; it’s just that no one paid heed.

It is tempting to look at the inevitability of it all through Bob Dylan’s lines: “Yes, and how many years must one man have/ Before he can hear people cry/ Yes, and how many deaths will it take ‘til he knows/ That too many people have died?/ ...The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind/ The answer is blowin’ in the wind”



SR Ramakrishna
often sees high art in kitsch and vice versa

Festivals mean feasting. And what we forget, as we celebrate our profusion of festive cuisine, is the plight of those who are on a diet. If you are restricting what you eat, either because you are battling a health problem or because you want to lose weight, you only have two options: break your resolve and join in the feasting, or lock yourself up and forgo festive socialising. Either way, you end up feeling miserable. The feasting makes you sick, and staying away from your family and friends doesn’t leave you in good spirits either.

They say the Punjabis splurge on weddings, and Bollywood is constantly bringing us musical reminders of how extravagant their celebrations can be. South Indian weddings now incorporate *baraat*, *sangeet*, and such other spectacular elements of North Indian weddings. Reception dinners flaunt new-age

northern attractions in addition to southern fare. The Maharashtrians, on the other hand, enjoy a reputation for frugality. Kannadigas, with whose practices I can claim first-hand familiarity, rank high up among those who place a premium on habba and *Haridina* (festivals), the highlight of which is invariably a *samaradhane* (feast). Some communities save up and blow all their savings when they host a wedding. Others borrow heavily – and mortgage and sell their land and property – to be able to throw lavish feasts. And that is perhaps one reason they will not let you go without tasting the spread. They have planned it for years and laboured over the creation of a memorable banquet. How can their sacrifices go in vain, and how can you disregard them? And hosts also assume you are desirous but shy.

More and more people are being told that

the answer to their poor health is fasting, besides dieting and mindful eating. But how do you even stick to a diet if you are always under pressure, and from your near and dear ones, to deviate from it? Our hosts take their hospitality seriously. Force-feeding, a friend calls it. If you are diabetic, you probably know how it is impossible to attend a celebration and come away without being fed multiple servings of the forbidden fare.

The Dasara-Deepavali season is when everything gets bigger. Stores deck themselves up for the busiest month of the year. New fashion floods the market. An earlier generation talks about how, when festivals meant getting new clothes stitched, the tailors would never deliver on time. Online shopping platforms and automobile dealers announce the biggest discounts of the year. The newspapers are thicker,

overflowing with advertisements. Sweet shops hire extra hands to meet the demand for bulk orders. As fairy lights appear everywhere, the most excited are the marketers – it is that time of the year when consumers splurge without a care. And the most anxious are the ones trying to watch what they eat.

In recent years, campaigns have made us aware of a wide variety of health and safety concerns. The authorities issue customary warnings about the perils of conventional crackers and urge you to go green. Sound and air pollution levels are discussed, and newspapers do a before-and-after comparison. You hear about the woes of children, elders, patients, and pets. The smells and sounds of the season leave them palpitating and terrified. Animal-friendly resorts away from civilisation offer packages for families with pets. A minuscule number of those

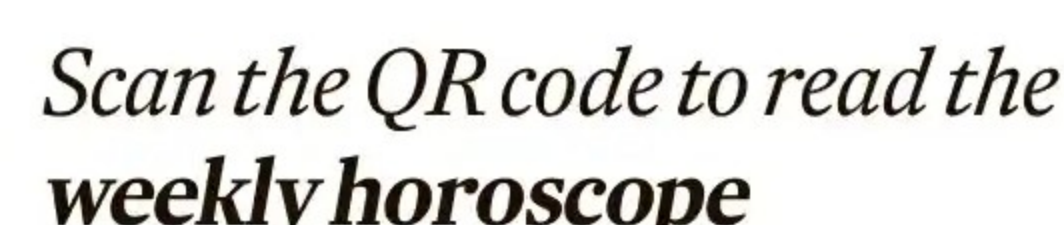
vulnerable do manage to get away from it all.

I have tried both approaches – staying away from social occasions, and attending them and asking to be excused from the meal. It isn’t easy. The first earns you a dark, sociopathic reputation. As for the second, when the gracious host’s persuasion starts drawing the attention of everyone around you, you give in. Who wants to be the centre of all the fuss, and what do you even say to satisfy the curiosity of a crowd zeroing in on you? That is when festive hospitality begins to acquire the dimensions of subtle violence.

Festive treats are not easy to resist. They look, smell, and taste great. Disciplining yourself not to be tempted by them takes time and effort. And then the smiling host appears, pirouetting like Menaka. What chance do you stand, poor Vishwamitra?

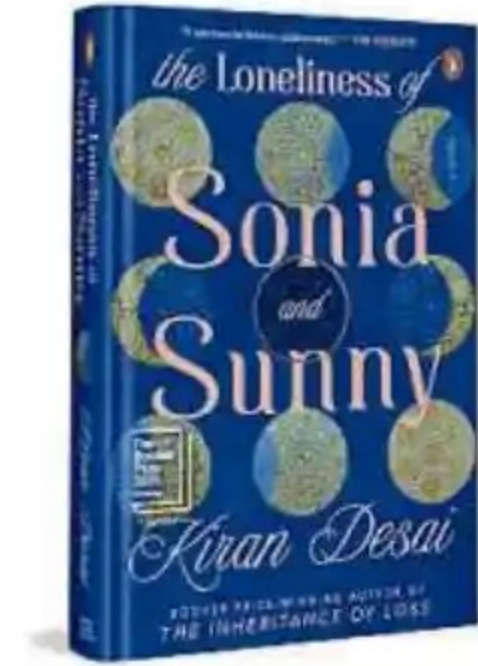
THIS AND THAT

The hidden dilemmas of the festive season



Kiran Desai's Booker-nominated novel dazzles with exquisite craft, chasing memory, desire and human complexity across continents, writes **Nandita Bose**

Threading time and longing



THE LONELINESS OF SONIA AND SUNNY
Kiran Desai
Penguin, pp 670, Rs 999

If there's a book to be treated reverentially — each word appearing dipped in blood or diamonds — it is this: *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny* by Kiran Desai. To be nominated for the Booker Prize again after her 2006 win for *The Inheritance of Loss* is no small feat, made even more striking by the fact that the manuscript was picked over in-print books. Naturally, one question tiptoes up: does the book live up to its hype?

A few pages in, despair — and all the familiar conspiracy theories about awards — creep in. A shaky start, though Desai soon steadies the bicycle handle, unleashing a finely meshed tale of nostalgia and displacement: of memory in India, and discovery abroad; of yearning for the desi past and making peace with an alien present. She writes of an ayah sweeping, "...fanning the dust into the dust upon the dust, to make a final pattern of dust scallops all the way to the outskirts of the compound."

The quaint life of Dadaji, Ba and Mina Foi, unfolding on Mina's 55th birthday, feels

supremely subcontinental — especially the visit to the bank locker and Ba's relief at recovering her daughter's dowry jewellery. "...Ba experienced, not happiness, of course, given the circumstance, but a resettling of her gut." Theirs is a story of genteel decay, of time and quiet displacement from importance. The narrative, though far from linear, always seems to arrive at this trio, gently finding a companion for Sonia, continents away.

The Vermont campus, meanwhile, is nearly deserted — just three foreign students stranded there, working predictable jobs. Sonia bursts into tears in every call home, so deep is her displacement, buried under snow and sorrow. On such a winter day, she meets Ihan, a middle-aged painter who seduces her with Japanese food, grand gestures, and the pretence of happiness.

Sunny Bhatia, once of Columbia and now with the *Associated Press*, roams the big bad world of journalism — buzzing with news, but never important enough. He is thrice removed: from India, from family, from



Kiran Desai.
(PIC COURTESY: PENGUIN)



This novel is, at heart, a romance, but one that turns the genre inside out. (PIC FOR REPRESENTATION)

himself. "He had thought he would be able to love her better from New York."

"Don't you know how f***ed up you are?" Sunny blurts to his mother — an Indian son to an Indian mother! But Babita owes him an ocean. "While Sunny did not believe in God, he did believe in the devil — therein may lie his life's problem." Sunny plots to steal back Badal Baba, the treasured talisman, from Ihan — a last token of love. "Was this the person Sonia had loved? Sunny felt small." Meeting Ihan brings a pang of pity. The book nods to Frida Kahlo (her portrait hangs in Ihan's house) and Diego, yet the parallels run deeper: "Her art became more vital than his art." When Sunny asks, "Was your happiness at the expense of those who lacked the privilege of turning pain into art?", Ihan erupts — and then crumbles.

From Allahabad to Delhi, Hewitt College to New York, Goa, Europe, and Mexico — Desai's worlds expand and collapse in rhythm. People, she suggests, are the same everywhere; only their languages of love differ.

The true hero of this book is Desai's craft. She leaps effortlessly from the mundane to the profound, painting swirls of lives, regrets, and revelations. She lends weight to the unimportant, tenderness to the scathing, and wisdom to the ordinary. Reading her feels like listening to a friend recount your memories — only sharper, funnier, more alive. The cast — Dutch, Korean, Filipino, Hungarian, and more — forms a tapestry of dazzling precision. Tug one thread, and the whole hums in response.

"He launched himself into the water and swam straight out to her in the manner

of a seabird joining another seabird." *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny* is, at heart, a romance — but one that turns the genre inside out. All art is love, it suggests — and the lovers we meet are frogs, narcissists, serial daters, manipulators, and sometimes, reflections of ourselves.

This is a post-breakup novel of staggering depth and a writer clawing her way back to her voice with icy disdain and exquisite precision. Savage, elegant, and wickedly funny, it burns its way into the subconscious of an entire generation. When elephants clash, even ants see fireworks. Mean? Maybe. But as readers of great literature, who wouldn't crave more of this glittering implosion of delight? If one book were to represent writing in the 21st century — to capture its chaos, beauty, and brilliance — it might just be this.



SPEED READS

Are you short on time but like your reading? Here's your literary espresso shot of the week.

CIRCLE OF DAYS by Ken Follett (Hachette):

Ken Follett takes grandeur seriously. In his new novel, *Circle of Days*, the prolific author takes us way back to around 2500 BCE when Stonehenge was conceptualised (and perhaps built). The novel spotlights two protagonists — Seft, a flint miner blessed with both dedication and imagination, and Joia, a priestess-in-training, ambitious and courageous. She wants to replace a wooden monument that can rot and fall apart with a stone circle that will also serve to unite warring tribes.

Follett is, of course, adept at bringing to life the prehistoric setting and much of the tension in the book is driven by the frequent clashes between the farmers, the herders and the woodlanders. Heavy doses of passionate affairs, esoteric rituals and not-so-esoteric politics make this novel a mini doorstopper. While the narrative is compelling, the large cast of characters and the many digressions are hard to keep track of, and the pace slackens every now and then. Still, this is a book to pick up if you like a big fat epic to while away the weekend.

BLADE OF FURY by Ranjith Radhakrishnan (Westland):

This is the second instalment in *The Epic Saga of Parushurama* by Bengaluru-based entrepreneur and novelist Ranjith Radhakrishnan. In the first book of the series, *Rama Of The Axe*, the author introduced the readers to the multi-faceted Parashurama, a reluctant warrior but a principled man, ambitious and yet vulnerable, a thinker as well as a doer. At the end of the first book, Parushurama slays Chakravarthi Samrat Karthavirya Arjuna, but the prophecy binds them both in an eternal struggle to become and unbecome. Parushurama is now a Chiranjeevi. What will happen to Arjuna?

In *Blade of Fury*, the author shifts gears. While the first instalment was more focused on action and establishing Parashurama's character and persona, the sequel is more introspective and plunges into uncertain territory with its philosophical ruminations. What makes the sequel interesting is the author's willingness to make Parashurama not a cardboard character but an avatara grappling with questions of identity and power, dealing with his weaknesses, constantly questioning himself and confronting his darkest fears. For readers looking for masala action, this may disappoint, but the sequel is for those who want our myths to move beyond religious dogmas.

SHE AND HERS by Manav Kaul and Sayari Debnath (translator) (Penguin):

Yes, it is the same Manav Kaul whom you have seen on screen and on stage. For the past two decades or so, Kaul has been a familiar name in the world of film and theatre, where he acts, directs and writes. What many do not know is that he has a considerable body of literary work to boast of, too. His works *Theek Tumhare Peeche* (Right Behind You) and *Prem Kabootar* (Love Pigeon) have been bestsellers in their own right.

She & Hers was originally published in Hindi in 2018 as *Tumhare Baare Mein*. This is a story that is in its own way genre agnostic. You can call it reflective prose (bordering on poetry) on identity, or you can read it as a poignant, delicate exploration of love and its many shades of grey. What is physical attraction? Is it different from connecting with another in an emotional realm? Is there a 'normal' love as compared to an extraordinary one? Is all passion untenable? These are some of the many questions Kaul is asking subtly when Yash meets Renu. Even as their love moves beyond the mere physical, the author takes the readers through our (stale) notions of the male gaze, superiority and patriarchy while reminding us again and again about what is 'normal' and what isn't. This is not an easy read, but it will pull you by its hand and make you sit down, perhaps in front of a mirror.

Curated by Rashmi Vasudeva

Speed Reads is a new column that features bite-sized primers of the latest releases for book lovers on the go.



BOOKRACK



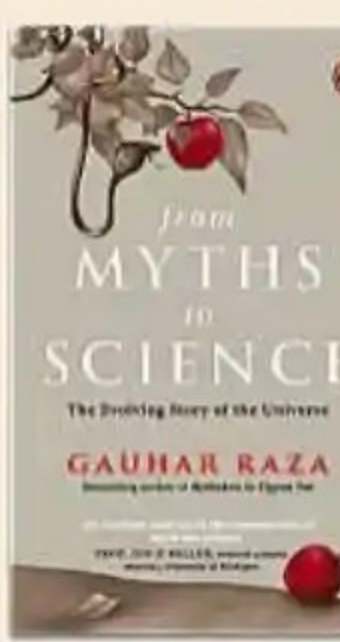
CRACKS IN THE WALL
Neera Kashyap Niyogi, pp 300, Rs 595

This is a book that reveals multi-faceted struggles — mental, societal, familial — individuals confront as they navigate fears, traumas and desires in the course of their lives.

FROM MYTHS TO SCIENCE

Gauhar Raza

Penguin, pp 280, Rs 499



This is a powerful exploration of humanity's journey from inherited myths to rational thought, from blind faith to scientific inquiry.

BHIMA'S WIFE

Kavita Kane

Penguin, pp 352, Rs NA



Before Draupadi, there was Hidimbi. The first, the eldest Pandava daughter-in-law; a status denied to her throughout her life, through the years, down the centuries.

She remains the forgotten wife in the Mahabharata.

12 YEARS

Chetan Bhagat

HarperCollins, pp 432, Rs 399



Saket and Payal couldn't be more different — age, background, beliefs. Yet, they're drawn to each other in ways they can't explain. Is it just chemistry, or something deeper?

Is it madness and lust, or is it love?

THE LION'S TALE

Akhil K

Westland, pp 208, Rs 399



Rajan, the hooch distiller, needs a couple of ghosts to scare off anyone coming up the mountain towards Ettunaad. Who better than the penniless Aadi and Saravanan, sons of Ettunaad's legendary Theyyam artist Chindachchan?

A map of the unseen, a story of the invisible

Vuong explores both the concealed worlds inside us and those around us, revealing the ghosts that inhabit our thoughts, writes **Amritesh Mukherjee**

We are all conspiracy theorists at heart. As a character explains, "There was no free-floating globe because the earth was controlled by reptilians living underground, whose tunnels can be accessed only through a secret entrance on an ancient ice sheet on the 'forbidden continent,' and all the politicians — including every American president since Kennedy — have privately visited Antarctica to make deals with these lizards. They feed on our suffering, ya know? We're nothing but a crop to them."

Ocean Vuong's second book of prose, *The Emperor of Gladness*, is a story of fractured and reconstructed families, of the circular dance between mothers and sons, of the directionality of directionlessness, of the constellations found in the simplest of lives built from leftovers. It's a story of the invisible, the marginalised, the perpetually unseen, the working class. It's a story of "people (who) vanish all the time and leave no trace, even here in America." Especially here in America. Through his words, obscurity itself finds a texture, a shape.

It's the story of Hai, who, at the beginning of the story, finds himself at the edge of a river, contemplating its dark invitation. As we find him, so does Grazina, a Lithuanian refugee from World War II. War afflicts Hai's past, too, whose family migrated from a war-stricken

Vietnam. These two characters, both haunted by their pasts, both escaping from it, find a makeshift family in her dilapidated house with its cramped domesticity.

Here, in this museum of survival, two wars separated by decades find their common language in the art of enduring. Forgetting becomes their shared language. For Grazina, it's involuntary: age stealing her memories like a thief in the night. For Hai, it's survival: deliberately burying what threatens to drown him. In their conversations, they build bridges from incomplete thoughts, each supplying what the other cannot remember or chooses not to recall.

But the mathematics of family multiplies in unexpected places. At HomeMarket, a fast-food chain, he joins an eccentric cast of characters, each suffering, each persevering, yet dreaming all the same, "weather worn and perennially exhausted or pissed off or both." BJ, the store manager, dreams of becoming a professional wrestler. Sony, both Hai's cousin and a Civil War obsessive, dreams of liberating his incarcerated mother and reconnecting with his distant father. Russia, whose Tajikistani roots belie his name, works multiple shifts — FedEx warehouse and an occasional slaughterhouse — to fund his sister's rehabilitation. Despite regular racist abuses from customers, Wayne refuses to stop roasting meat to maintain his pitmaster family's legacy alive.

Each carries their own conspiracy theory about escape, their own mythology of elsewhere. The dreams sustain them. The work destroys them.

And it is so that HomeMarket becomes a theatre where the farce of the American Dream is reheated nightly under buzzing lights. Through burn scars, aching wrists,

greasy skin, powdered cheese under the nails, aching jaws from fake smiles, that dream dissolves into the reality of bodies breaking, day by day, shift by shift.

In the end, *Emperor of Gladness* maps the topography of the unseen. Vuong excavates both the hidden worlds within us and the hidden worlds that surround us — the elaborate deceptions we construct for daily survival, the ghosts that colonise our thoughts, "your head a coffin to keep memories of the dead alive."

His subjects are the countless living on the outskirts of society — the ad-dicts, the waiters, the elderly, the drivers, the makeup artists — the shadow workforce, the deliberately invisible, their invisibility manufactured through exclusionary policies and subsistence wages that sustain the myth of progress. The story insists that this universe of the unrecorded and unremarked is still a universe, validated by its very own interiority, its very consciousness a form of presence.

Vuong, in his characteristic medley of prose and verse, of swaying, branching, looping sentences that hold emotion like a lung holds air, of optimistic, melancholic descriptions, thus creates a world of the invisible. His form wanders, stumbles, returns, interrupts, repeats itself, the syntax mirroring his characters' uncertainty.

This uncertainty can be seen in the details. A man names his son after his favourite chess piece. A character chases a diamond trapped in his deceased father's palm.

We are all conspiracy theorists at heart. Not from delusion, but from necessity — the human hunger to find purpose in purposelessness, hope in hopelessness, direction in directionlessness, love in lovelessness. The *Emperor of Gladness* is, then, a conspiracy theory about conspiracy theories.



The world of this novel is full of swaying shadows and haunting pasts.
(PIC FOR REPRESENTATION)



READ OF THE WEEK

Andrew and Jihi Bustamante were a 'tandem couple': married spies who'd dedicated their lives to the CIA. They met as trainees at Langley and got married while hunting terrorists across the globe. Then, suddenly, they were assigned to a mission so sensitive and explosive that the CIA has still never acknowledged it. The CIA's source network in a country code-named 'Falcon' — one of America's most formidable rivals — had been compromised by a mole, and the agency needed a new way to collect intelligence there.

Young newlyweds, the Bustamantes, were considered safe choices for this daunting task precisely because they had no experience in

Falcon. They were also loyal, forgettable, and completely disposable — operatives who could help to strengthen the CIA's position in Falcon while simultaneously serving as bait for the mole. Assembling a ragtag team of fellow operatives and recruiting new sources from Falcon, the Bustamantes pioneered a new way of spying by building their own cell.

The propulsive, untold tale of one of history's greatest intelligence crises and the unlikely band of agents sent in to clean up the mess, *Shadow Cell* allows us to peer behind the curtain and see how today's spy wars are being fought — and won.



Love contains MULTITUDES

Once you accept that love is a work-in-progress, and far from perfect, you unburden it from the weight of a million expectations, realises Arundhati Ghosh

We play with fire every day. Imagine giving the softest, most fragile part of yourself to another person saying, “Here, my heart is yours now. And with it I also give you power over me – power that can break me, unmake me, and totally destroy who I am.” Because isn’t that what love is, in all its immense and terrifying beauty? Like fire love lights up, nourishes, enchants – and like fire it engulfs, ravages, ruins. And yet we go recklessly seeking love, wait longingly for it, cajole it into our lives with absolute surrender. At some point, when it breaks our hearts – what a mess we make of our lives! We must be truly insane to play with this fire every day. And while we know that neither playing with fire nor love is a cake-walk, we wonder if there is a better hand than the one dealt us. Since I am polyamorous I get asked if loving more than one person at a time is easier than the austere limitations of monogamy. “It must be,” says a friend tired

TIES AND KNOTS

of tiptoeing around the perimeters of loyalty and exclusivity. When I tell her that there are boundaries here too and every freedom comes with its own set of responsibilities – in the case of polyamory to ensure jealousies are coped with, for a start – she throws up her hands in frustration. A straight friend running out of ideas on how to address the vagaries of men asks her lesbian mate, “We women are better at relationships, right? We are givers. Being with women must be such pleasure with no complications.” “Wait till you fall in love with one,” comes the sharp response. Couples in long distance relationships hard pressed to meet in-person ask if love in the same city is better. Dating folks between Whitefield and Cooke Town in Bangalore, chuckle. The city’s renowned traffic has given ‘distance’ a whole different dimension. Committed lovers share the strenuous pressure to meet regularly, the constant demand to nurture that runs on a relationship escalator with predestined milestones. Another friend balancing work, children and dating asks if living-in-kind of love is smarter. “I can do with extra working hands in the house,” she asserts. “And what about the monotony that builds over time”, I ask, “the getting on each other’s nerves, the romance waning with everyday chores, the suppressed anger at disappointments?” She throws a cushion at me, justifiably.

No such thing as perfect love

And it goes on. In a world already coming off at the seams overloaded with responsibilities, scarce resources, and the exhaustion of the constant hamster-wheel of life – everyone wants a kind of love that is simple, light, and less complicated than the ones they are living. They want the successful, no-mess love. However, from witnessing and experiencing various relationships of love, I have grasped that ultimately there is no such thing as the perfect love.



Arundhati Ghosh

Or its easier, prettier, cooler variants. All love is difficult, complex, tough work. Young love suffers from the foolishness of inexperience; old love dims with the weariness of wisdom; love that transgresses boundaries is denounced; the one sanctioned by family suffocates emulating unquestioning stereotypes. No love has a ‘lite version’, comes with a fool-proof manual to tackle disasters, or a blueprint of the ideal. Instead, it arrives with infuriating puzzles, unsuspecting snares, and unpredictable temperaments. While all poetry liken love to the radiance of

spring, in reality one lives through all of its seasons – the scorching sun, the incessant rains, the dark winters. Eternal spring is a mythical land and love remains at its core messy, volatile, exacting.

But I have also realised that once you accept this truth – that love is a supremely imperfect, arduous, constant work-in-progress experiment, riddled with mistakes and failures – it starts to come into its own skin. Gone are pressures to excel, points to score. Love is unburdened from the weight of a million expectations – to cure all suffering or be the talisman against star-crossed destiny. It is allowed to be playful and joyous, an exploration of the self and its relationship to others. Love slows to a relaxed pace meandering through life’s experiences, with no deadlines or destinations to achieve. With no tests to examine its merit, this love takes kindly to blunders, making space for lapses. It does not bother to compete with available templates, instead finds its own language to make its own stories. This practice of love takes time, effort, and patience – every day – it’s like learning to cook and giving it your own spin. The spill, the scald, the bleed – are all essential ingredients. But its most enduring quality is the permission it gives to judge ourselves less harshly, be compassionate to our own faltering ways. Because without forgiveness, how can we ever imagine to heal what we have broken!

(This column navigates the various worlds of entangled relationships attempting to celebrate, cope with, and reimagine the meanings of our connections. The author is a writer, cultural practitioner, social activist, and traveller. All Our Loves: Journeys with Polyamory India is her first book in English, published by Aleph in 2025.)



FEEDBACK
Have something to say?
Send your feedback and suggestions to
arufeedback@gmail.com

DECODED



All about allyship

Allyship is a word that’s often used in gender debates - but what does it really mean? Who exactly is an ally?

An ally is someone who is not part of a group but is deeply engaged with the concerns of such a group. In conversations around gender, an ally is someone who bats for the concerns of the core group that needs support.

For instance, the group could be LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and other identities) and the ally could be anyone who doesn’t identify as LG-BTQIA+ but advocates for the rights of these groups.

Then there is performative allyship, which has more to do with showing that you care for those in need of it and less to do with action.

Genuine allyship is all about using one’s privilege or influence in the best manner possible to advocate for the well-being of a group or individual. It is also a long-term relationship, where the ally supports and speaks for the

rights and concerns of the marginalised group.

The word ‘allyship’ first found its place in the Oxford English Dictionary in the 1840s. The word ally has been described as a “person who helps or co-operates with another; a supporter, an associate; a friend.” Allyship, however, came to be used in its current modern sense only later. It was Dictionary.com’s word of the year in 2021. Apart from gender-related conversations, the word is also used in contexts such as black civil rights and workplace discrimination.

How does one practice allyship?

You can be a dependable ally if you follow the four As model that is widely accepted as effective: ask, acknowledge, act and amplify. This model boils down to active listening, empathising and being proactive in offering support.

(Decoded is a column that demystifies gender concepts and breaks them down into easy-to-understand language.)

Travel

Edwina D’souza explores the museum, palaces, and cenotaphs in Indore to discover that the royal legacy is still alive — in the way the city carries itself today

The city stirred as my cab wound through the crowded alleys of Khajuri Bazaar. Indore, ten years later, felt both familiar and new.

Today, it carries itself with quiet assurance — sleeker, cleaner, more confident. It wears its titles with pride: India’s cleanest city for seven consecutive years, the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh, and an academic hub with both an IIT and an IIM. But I wasn’t here for the modern skyline or the café sheen. I wanted to understand Indore through the dynasty that shaped it — the Holkars. Rising to power in the 18th century, beginning with Malhar Rao Holkar in 1732, this influential Maratha clan built temples, palaces, and institutions that laid the foundation for a city that still has echoes of their legacy. I had 48 hours to trace those echoes.

A queen’s welcome

Bags dropped at the hotel, my first stop was the Central Museum, four kilometres from the city centre. Modest on the outside, it offered a gentle entry into Indore’s layered past. Established in the the 1920s by Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar III as part of the Naraatna Mandir educational institute, it came under state administration in 1965. Its eight galleries house sculptures from the Paramara dynasty (the Rajput rulers of Malwa from the 9th to the 14th centuries),



The Rajwada is an iconic landmark. (PHOTOS BY AUTHOR)

Retracing the Holkar footprints



The Krishnapura Chhatra

coins, weapons, and everyday artefacts from another era. Walking through them felt like peeling back centuries, uncovering dynasties, cultures, and beliefs that pre-date the Indore we know today.

Two palaces and a ruin

My deeper dive into the Holkar legacy began with Rajwada, Indore’s most iconic landmark. Built in 1747 by Malhar Rao Holkar, this seven-storey palace rises dramatically from the dense lanes of Khajuri Bazaar. It was once the nucleus of power, where festivals lit up courtyards and politics played out beneath ornate balconies.

Inside, it feels part museum, part memory. Wooden gateways and intricately carved facades evoke memories of royal processions. The architecture blends



The Holkars

Mughal, Maratha, and subtle European styles. I stayed for the evening sound and light show, which outlines the Holkar story in broad strokes. But it was Ahilyabai Holkar — the spiritual, compassionate queen — whose presence lingered most. Talk to locals and you’ll see she’s still Indore’s most beloved figure.

The next morning brought a

striking contrast: Lalbagh Palace, three kilometres south. If Rajwada was grandeur in overdrive. Commissioned in the late 1800s and completed in 1926, it was the Holkars’ architectural attempt to mirror European aristocracy. Sprawling across 72 acres, its 45 rooms exuded opulence — Italian marble, Belgian stained glass, Georgian furniture. Even its cast-iron gates were imported from England and modelled after those at Buckingham Palace.

My favourite space was the ballroom, where spring-mounted wooden floors once cushioned the steps of waltzing dancers. Such a small detail, yet it revealed how the Holkars saw themselves and the legacy they sought to craft.

But not every dream found form. Southwest of the city lies Phooti Kothi, a ruined palace with abandoned ambitions. Meant to rival the British Residency in nearby Mhow, officially Dr Ambedkar Nagar, its construction began in 1886 but halted in 1902. A planned 365-room marvel in Renaissance style stands unfinished, earning the nickname “the broken palace.” Sometimes, what isn’t built tells the deeper story.

That night, in the hush of my suite at Sayaji, the day softened into memory — chandeliers, quiet corridors, the scent of incense, museum dust still clinging to my shoes. The stillness ran deep. Forty-eight hours of walking Holkar footsteps had come full circle. Their legacy doesn’t live behind the palace gates or temple walls - it lives in how Indore carries itself today.

Temples, tombs and timelessness

Ahilyabai’s legacy wasn’t just regal, it was deeply spiritual. That afternoon, I visited Khajrana Ganesh Temple, one of her many commissioned sanctuaries. Legend has it that the idol was hidden in a well to protect it from Mughal rulers and later retrieved by the queen herself.

Today, locals come here for blessings before exams,



The entrance to the Lalbagh Palace, modelled after the Buckingham Palace.

weddings, and new ventures. I joined them, whispering a wish to Mushak, the tiny mouse at Ganesh’s feet. It’s custom here: speak to the mouse, and your wish travels upward.

My final stop was Krishnapura Chhatris, a quiet cluster of cenotaphs honouring Holkar rulers. Tucked near Rajwada along the banks of the Khan River, these intricately carved memorials date back to the mid-nineteenth century and commemorate figures such as Krishnabai, Tukoji Rao II, and Shivaji Rao Holkar. Each structure houses a garbha griha with a bust and Shiva ling. Unlike the grandeur of Rajwada or Lalbagh, this space is more tribute than display. As pigeons fluttered through the arches and the river flowed past, something settled. In a journey shaped by power and vision, this was where it all came to rest.

That night, in the hush of my suite at Sayaji, the day softened into memory — chandeliers, quiet corridors, the scent of incense, museum dust still clinging to my shoes. The stillness ran deep. Forty-eight hours of walking Holkar footsteps had come full circle. Their legacy doesn’t live behind the palace gates or temple walls - it lives in how Indore carries itself today.

Even now, it hums through places you might pass without noticing: Holkar Science College, Shivaji Rao Holkar School, MY Hospital, MT Cloth Market. What they left behind is more than history — it’s momentum. And to understand that future, I had to stand in its past.



How to plan your itinerary

One of the most common dilemmas you are likely to face while travelling is whether you should actually plan an itinerary or just be spontaneous. Although spontaneous travel is liberating, you would need a broad plan, if not for anything but for getting your travel visa approved seamlessly.

So, how does one plan an itinerary?

First, decide on how many days you can afford to spend at a destination. Take into account distances, size of a destination and travel time. You cannot tick off everything a place has to offer in two days, so being selective helps. On the other hand, if you have four or five days, you could indulge in some slow travel.

Broadly list out the key sights of a destination. Don’t pick every monument or museum, park or palace – instead, ask yourself what you seek from a destination. If your interest is history, you certainly would like to visit museums and monuments. If you are a nature lover, make sure that a national park or a forest trek features on your list.

Check for museum, gallery and event timings and plan your visit around the spot.

Keep an eye out for happenings and reviews for a particular destination – social media platforms,

news sites, generative AI chatbots and travel platforms are buzzing with information and reviews about a particular cafe, an entertainment hub or a market.

There are plenty of user-generated reviews, and even ready-to-use itineraries on online travel planning sites. You could have conversations with other users who will offer tips on how to build an itinerary for a particular destination.

Use apps tailor-made to build itineraries or use note taking apps that can store your calendar, links to spots in a city, and maps that are available offline as well.

Once you have a broad list for a specific city ready, you could divide the city into smaller sections, and combine all the attractions and things to do in one section for a time slot. Say you are planning a trip to Jaipur – combine all the sights around the City Palace and try to have a meal in the same area as well. Head to Amber Palace and the sights nearby at a separate time or day.

Last but not the least, allow for some free spaces on your calendar to just stroll around or revisit a favourite spot, sit at a cafe or by a lake.

(Toolbox is a column that gives you simple hacks to plan your travel better.)



Indigenous drinks are slowly gaining popularity.

Ring in some festive cheer with homegrown brews like mahua, feni and toddy, which are inching their way up cocktail charts and bar menus, writes Swarna Srikanth

Move over whisky and rum — the new toast of the town comes from India's own backyard. Indigenous spirits like feni, mahua and toddy are steadily appearing on bar menus and cocktail charts, sparking conversations around craftsmanship, culture, and conscious drinking. Once sipped as part of local traditions and tabooed as “country liquor,” these native brews are now being reimagined by distillers, mixologists, and connoisseurs alike.

Said Goa? We heard feni! Feni, a local spirit, tapped from cashew apples or coconut sap, has long been part of Goan culture and become synonymous with the state's

alco-bev scenes. At present, feni's home state remains its largest market, with a couple of international markets on the horizon.

“Feni is not just a drink—it is one of the world's most ancient distilled spirits, crafted in Goa for over 500 years. While it's widely sipped in Goa in India, the drink has also witnessed great interest from Japan, where it is already being featured as a specialty spirit in high-end cocktails in some top bars in Tokyo. While overall sales still remain modest, volumes have doubled in the past five years,” says Hansel Vaz, secretary of the Cashew Feni Association.

Once limited to local taverns or hipster hideouts like Joseph Bar, feni is now being poured in a few bars on 'Asia's 50 Best' list. Many now stock Cazulo, signaling a growing appreciation for its unique profile. Experiential spaces like Fazenda Cazulo have introduced immersive concepts such as Floating Feni, offering people an engaging way to taste and fall in love with this desi drink. Also, feni now carries the legitimacy of being the first Indian spirit to receive a Geographical Indication (GI).

Mahua: India's floral elixir Mahua or mahura, which is grown in as many as 13 states in India, produces a much-enjoyed alcoholic beverage in areas where it is collected, distilled and served. Notably, mahua is the only spirit in the world that is distilled from a naturally sweet flower.

“While mahua has gotten a fair amount of attention over the past few years, it is not likely in the near future to dethrone our default national spirit. Prevailing excise policies are a major issue,” notes Conrad Braganza, the COO of the Desmondji Craft Spirits, the label that launched mahua spirit and mahua liqueur in 2018. He tells us that the brand made a little over 10,000 bottles (equated to 750 ml) of mahua in their launch year and the quantities over the past few years have been fairly steady. “For India, mahua has the potential to be what tequila is to Mexico or what soju is to Korea,” he adds.

“The largest footprint of any spirit in this country is mahua, with 90 per cent of the total usage being in alcohol preparation,” says Aniruddha Mookerjee, an



Peach and plum mahuatini.

alcohol connoisseur with over 20 years of grassroots-level research on indigenous spirits and an advisor for Heritage Liquor to the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Toddy struggle “Toddy has been banned for 37 years now in Tamil Nadu, mainly because of the dominance of TASMAC outlets,” says Ashok Kumar from the Salem Zone Palm Tree Climbing Workers Association.

He claims that TASMAC drinks don't have nutritional value while toddy does, making it a probable alternative sip.

“Toddy (especially palmyra) has probiotic properties—it's actually beneficial for health,” he says.

“We see toddy not as liquor, but as food. Even though it contains alcohol, which is less than six per cent, it is best described as a naturally fermented, nutrient-rich, low-alcohol drink that should be promoted as a health beverage,” he adds.

Seeking revocation of the ban on toddy in Tamil Nadu, he points out that Kerala is doing better than his state and leading in toddy production. The drink also has international demand, with Sri Lanka exporting its toddy to Europe and Australia, but he believes India will in the future be able to capture the market with government support and much-needed change in age-old policies.

Future of indigenous spirits Aniruddha Mookerjee points out that the race for India's indigenous spirits to occupy the centre-stage is long and only possible with key changes in policies regulating liquor production and supply. “The challenge to bringing recognition to mahua, feni and other India's spirits lies in the excise laws. We also need to remove the colonial stigma associated with these spirits and do better with distribution,” he says.

Today, most of what is produced by the local mahua-making communities, and quietly sold in the market, is illegal, inconsistent and without any quality checks. Aniruddha adds, “Sometimes it is filled in tyre tubes and transported, which makes it toxic. We have to distinguish between personal home production, which is a customary right guaranteed by the Constitution in many parts of the country, and commercial produc-

tion, which needs to be licensed, and adhere to FSSAI and BIS norms to be formally sold in the market. Until existing state policies uniformly change across India, distribution of indigenous spirits like mahua will be expensive, and difficult, through regular channels. But hopefully it will happen, perhaps in another decade,” he says.

Is India ready to get over whisky, and go desi? Jonas Ax, renowned mixologist and Head of Advocacy, Bacardi (India & Neighboring Countries), notes that India has always been a whisky market, and that remains true even today. “Drinks like feni, mahua, and local rice-based brews are gaining popularity, especially in urban bars. This isn't a replacement, but an expansion. Indian consumers are building a more layered drinking culture where Scotch continues to sit alongside homegrown traditions,” Jonas explains.

Nibaran Mandal, Senior F&B Supervisor and Bartender, Deltin Suites, Goa, agrees with Jonas and reflects on the visible curiosity around indigenous spirits. “While some purists enjoy sipping feni or mahua neat to truly appreciate their earthy notes and layered aromas, a growing number of patrons are discovering them through cocktails. The 25–40 age group is leading this exploration. For them, cocktails crafted with feni or mahua aren't just drinks but also cultural experiences—stories in a glass that connect tradition with modernity. This evolving interest marks a positive shift,” the bartender shares.

“India will remain a whisky-first market for the foreseeable future, dominated by the ‘big four’ international companies—Diageo, Pernod Ricard, Bacardi, and William Grant & Sons,” Hansel says.

“Mahua, toddy and feni are all in the race together for recognition and the makers and sellers of these indigenous spirits should adopt a collaborative approach so as to learn from each other,” Conrad concludes. *(This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to promote or condone the abuse of alcohol. Alcohol should be consumed responsibly and in moderation by individuals of legal drinking age.)*

**DEEPAVALI LITE**

Deepavali is here, and it's time to indulge your sweet tooth. What about all those calories, you say? You can still indulge in your favourite desserts but how about a healthy twist: low-fat alternatives that will keep your guilt at bay.



OATS LADDOO

What's Deepavali without laddoo? Adding oats to boost the fibre quotient and dates for sweetness or almonds for protein will give it a healthy twist.

QUINOA PAYASA

Payasa is a must-have as part of your festive meal. Use quinoa and low-fat milk as a guilt-free option.

GULAB JAMUN (BAKED)

Instead of frying tiny portions of dough before soaking them in sugar syrup, try baking or air-frying dough for gulab jamuns that are less oily.

APPLE BASUNDI

Use grated apple and make a basundi with low-fat milk for a light and lower caloric option.

FLAXSEED & CHIA PUDDING

Use ground flaxseeds, cocoa powder and low-fat milk or almond milk to make a creamy and flavourful pudding.



Wellness

Syrup or no syrup?

Recent cough-syrup related deaths have reopened the debate on safety of syrups to treat coughs. Doctors factor in symptoms, causes and age of children before prescribing syrups, writes Dr Jyothi Raghuram

For long, parents have instinctively offered a spoon of syrup to children suffering from coughs. That is quickly changing. In India, there has been a noticeable shift in the approach doctors have been taking while prescribing cough syrups to children, because of safety concerns and updated guidance around such medication.

A wake-up call Recent incidents of children dying after consuming contaminated cough syrups have reopened the debate about safety. Investigators found harmful substances in unacceptable amounts, highlighting a failure of quality control in medicines. The loss of these children



The doctor's checklist

Before prescribing anything, doctors assess:

- Age and weight of the child
- Type and duration of cough
- Associated symptoms like fever, breathlessness, or chest pain
- Underlying conditions such as asthma or allergies
- Risk factors for complications

This helps doctors determine whether medication is necessary or whether watchful waiting and home care are safer options.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO AT HOME

- The role of parents is important for recovery. Here are measures that are safe and effective:
- Encourage your child to drink more fluids during illness. Warm fluids are good for hydration.
 - Saline nasal drops are helpful for examining nasal congestion during recovery.
 - Steam inhalation or humidified air is helpful for healing.
 - Honey can be soothing to the

- throat (during recovery and if your child is over a year old).
- Avoid asking your friendly neighbourhood pharmacist for over-the-counter cough syrups for your child.
 - If your child has a persistently high temperature, fever, difficulty breathing, blue lips, and refuses to be fed, consult your paediatrician immediately.
 - Go to a doctor if the cough recurs or lasts long.

problems — especially in children under 2 years.

- Overuse or combining multiple cold medications increases the risk of accidental overdosing.
- Due to these considerations, the national and international guidance now recommends against routinely using cough syrups

in young children. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and the expert consensus statement clearly indicate that fixed-dose combinations should be avoided in children under 4 years of age.

It has also recommended physician discretion in deciding to use

fixed-dose combinations for children.

When doctors avoid cough syrups

- In children aged 2 or younger, risks outweigh benefits.
- In mild, dry, short coughs due to viral infections, where patients are improving.
- In night time coughs from nasal drip or allergies, home remedies are actually more helpful.
- Paediatricians rely on supportive care in these conditions, which provides patients with equal or greater relief compared to medication.

When doctors prescribe cough syrups

There are instances where cough syrups help, but these are the exception, not the rule.

- Ongoing coughs that dry out the lungs and interrupt sleep after serious causes are excluded.
- Coughs associated with allergies or asthma – there are medications to treat these conditions. Inhaled medications are the first choice in children with asthma, both for relief during acute episodes and for ensuring there's no recurrence of symptoms.
- If cough is due to a bacterial infection, antibiotics are the primary intervention and cough syrup may also be given for a short duration to relieve symptoms.
- Coughs that are “wet” but have thick secretions where an expectorant may help clear thick secretions.
- Even in such situations, the dosing is always calculated and provided based on the child's age and weight. Parents are counselled on how long to give the cough medication and not to self-medicate if another episode occurs as each time the cause maybe different. *(The author is a senior consultant - general pediatrics & pediatric rheumatology.)*

Rebalance your plate

JAYASHREE BAFNA

India is facing a sharp rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension and heart ailments. This shift, known as the nutrition transition, is largely driven by our changing diets and lifestyle. Recent studies reveal that NCDs account for more than 60 per cent of all deaths in India.

A landmark Indian Council of Medical Research–India Diabetes (ICMR–INDIAB) survey, covering over 1.2 lakh adults in the country reported a prevalence of type-2 diabetes and prediabetes of 11.4 per cent and 15.3 per cent.

The study found that the average Indian gets 62 per cent of daily calories from refined carbohydrate, mainly from white rice, milled wheat and added sugars. Protein intake remains low-plant sources (nine per cent), dairy (two per cent) and minimal animal protein (one per cent).

High intake of sugar, oil Added sugar consumption exceeded recommended five per cent of daily calories in most states, while saturated fat recommendation (< seven per cent)

was also above safe limits. High consumption of ghee, palm oil and coconut oil, further compounds the issue.

The ICMR–INDIAB report notes that replacing even five per cent of carbohydrate with five per cent protein from plant, dairy, egg or fish sources was associated with lower likelihood of type 2 diabetes and prediabetes.

However it did not assess the potential benefits of replacing refined carbohydrate with intact whole grains, fruits/vegetables or fibre-rich food is known to lower the risk of NCDs. In India, most whole grains are consumed as milled flour for chapati/roti. Milling reduces the grain size and increases the glycemic index to the levels of refined wheat or white rice. A carbohydrate-dominant diet, especially one high in refined grains, tends to increase sweet and fatty food cravings.

It's important to note that a healthier diet isn't about giving up traditional foods. Mixing millets with rice, using homemade spices for flavour and adding a spoon of ghee at the end of cooking can preserve traditional flavours while improving nutrition. *(The author is a consultant dietician and diabetes educator.)*



SMALL TWEAKS; BIG IMPACT

- **Inclusion, not elimination:** do not cut out rice or roti entirely. Instead, practice portion control and include millets such as barnyard millet, foxtail millet, kodo or sama rice at least four to five times a week as a substitute for rice or wheat. Try millet-based upma, pulao or bisibele bath to blend traditional taste with nutrition.
- **Protein in every meal:** aim for protein in all three meals. Start your day with half cup sprouts with poha or upma, egg with dosa or idli or three dal dosas. Replace watery dals with thick dal fry and include variety in pulses such as horse gram, black chana, chickpeas, lobia, and whole green gram. Add paneer, curd, tofu, tempeh, egg, chicken or fish, based on preferences.
- **Vegetables at every meal:** fill half your plate with vegetables, cooked and raw. They provide fibre, antioxidant and essential vitamins while improving satiety. Eating them along with protein helps reduce the amount of rice/roti consumed naturally.
- **Manage fats wisely:** limit foods rich in saturated and trans fats such as butter, cheese, red meat, pastries and fried snacks. Use oil mindfully – measure instead of pouring directly from the bottle. Traditional oils like mustard, groundnut or sesame are better options. The belief that ‘more oil means better taste’ is a myth mindful use enhances both health and flavour.
- **Smart cooking methods:** opt for roasting, steaming, grilling or air frying instead of deep frying.
- **One-pot meals:** Opt for khichdi, millet upma or dal based curries which offer complete nutrition using minimal oil and fuel.
- **Include healthy fats:** add small portions of nuts (almonds, walnuts, groundnut, cashews), seeds (flax seeds, chia seeds, sesame seeds, pumpkin seeds) or oily fish for heart friendly omega-3 fats.
- **Cut down on sugary beverages:** replace aerated drinks and packaged juice with coconut water, lemon water, buttermilk or a sattvu drink. For sweet cravings, try groundnut or roasted chana chikki, a date or fig.

**HEALTH IN THE HEADLINES**

led to regulators imposing more oversight of cough syrups and some states mandating a prescription before purchase, especially for infants and young children.

The Union Health Ministry also sent advisories to doctors seeking rational prescription of cough syrups for children in cases where they have a true medical need. The advisory also reminded states that most coughs are self-limiting, even if viral. This has shaped expectations of pediatricians for one of the most common symptom complexes in children.

Why doctors are rethinking cough syrups Paediatric coughs are most often caused by viral infections, which typically improve within 7–10 days without the need for medication.

- Cough syrups do not treat the underlying infection; they only temporarily suppress symptoms.
- Some ingredients can cause side effects such as drowsiness, vomiting or, in rare cases, breathing

Beyond the medal

Even as this year's Peace Prize to María Corina Machado sparks global reflection, Oslo's Nobel Peace Center remains a living testimony to amity, says **Rameshinder Singh Sandhu**

Oslo's grand harbour, framed by historic landmarks like the City Hall, Opera House, National Library and a centuries-old fort, also hosts one of the Norwegian capital's most significant attractions — the Nobel Peace Center. Dedicated to Alfred Nobel and his celebrated Peace Prize, the museum honours the Swedish inventor, chemist and philanthropist whose will created five global awards — for Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace — thus using his vast fortune for the advancement of humanity.

Housed in a former railway station from the 1870s at the popular City Hall Square, the building's vintage charm continues to enchant. "The idea for the museum came from Geir Lundestad, former director of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, who had championed it since the 1990s. It finally became a

reality on June 11, 2005. The chosen building was ideal; central and the right size," says Ingvill Bryn Rambøl, Head of Information at the Nobel Peace Center.

Spread across two floors, the museum offers immersive spaces and thoughtful galleries. The Alfred Nobel Corridor introduces visitors to Nobel's life, his legacy, and his will — prepared long before his death at 63 in San Remo, Italy, and kept sealed in a Swedish bank until then. On the first floor, a spacious gallery celebrates the latest Peace Prize laureate, personally inaugurated by the winner during their December 10 visit to receive the prize, coinciding with Nobel's death anniversary. The space brims with images, anecdotes and reflections of each recipient.

As per Nobel's will, while Stockholm hosts the other four prizes,



The Oslo City Hall dramatically lit up during a sunset.



The Nobel Peace Center in Oslo.

Oslo was chosen for the Peace Prize. Since 1990, the award ceremony has been held at the elegant Oslo City Hall, just steps from the museum, attended by about a thousand guests, including the Norwegian royal family. The ceremony features cultural performances and the much-awaited acceptance speech — photographs of which adorn the museum's corridors. Before 1990, the University of Oslo was the venue, and from 1901 to 1904, even the Parliament.

Other interactive areas encourage visitors to reflect on the meaning of peace through rotating exhibits, wall thoughts, and participatory activities such as leaving messages on the Peace Plant or crafting art from broken pottery. During my visit, I was struck by the poignancy of messages scrawled in many languages. "Real richness is when we

have peace, be it at home or in the country," read one. Another quoted John F Kennedy: "Mankind must put an end to war before war puts an end to mankind."

Further on, a tranquil blue-lit hall houses interactive touchscreens that chronicle past laureates, all extraordinary individuals and organisations from around the world. Nearby lies the Medal Chamber, a circular, softly illuminated room displaying the 18-carat gold Peace Prize medal designed by renowned sculptor Gustav Vigeland. Enclosed in glass, it reveals both faces — the portrait of Nobel on one side and three men symbolising unity on the other. This medal, loaned by the family of Christian Lous Lange, the 1921 Peace Prize laureate, has remained on display since the museum's opening.

Just before the exit, a cosy library invites visitors to linger among books on Alfred Nobel and stories of peace. Here, conversations often ripple between travellers from across the world, all united by one enduring hope — the pursuit of peace. The Center also offers hourly guided tours for those who wish to explore its stories more deeply.

(Ticketed entry; closed on Mondays.)

Besides a gold medal, Peace Prize laureates receive **a diploma and a cheque for 11 million Swedish kronor.**

In certain years, no Peace Prize has been awarded. **Since 1901, 106 Peace Prizes have been conferred.**

Contemporary Aboriginal artists have expanded into installation and sculptural art, building upon traditional techniques, discovers **Michael Patrao**

Ancestral stories in every stroke

For many enthusiasts of art who encounter Aboriginal art in Australia, the initial impression is often that it is too simplistic and raw. Yet, such a view barely scratches the surface. Aboriginal art, in truth, reflects a visual language of its own. The art speaks about the environment in which it is born, the land, the collective memory of its practitioners and spirituality. It is also a medium for passing down messages, knowledge, survival skills and lessons.

Over generations, despite the onslaught of modernity, Aboriginal artists have adapted to new contexts while adhering firmly to their roots. Artists have evolved using modern art materials and synthetic colours, replacing natural dyes and materials. However, each artistic work remains aligned to its heritage, personal history and ancestry. It is for this reason that authentic art can only come from the Aboriginals, although it may seem easy to imitate their art. Symbolism is essential to this tradition.

ON THE PALETTE

Aboriginal art speaks of its affiliation to each tribe, the myriad ceremonies, and folk stories, each carrying layers of meaning. They are not just decorative pieces, although they may look good in a modern drawing room. The themes include fishing, hunting, gathering and family life.

Among the many Aboriginal art styles, dot painting is one of the most well-known. Aboriginal communities, which historically had no written language, used dots as a visual storytelling method. These patterns convey sacred ancestral beings, the relationship between people and the land, and complex cultural knowledge.

The dot patterns, one of the dominant elements in Aboriginal art, represent the spiritual world and sacred ideas and nature — animals, plants and water bodies — by the very arrangement of the dots in terms of spacing, intensity and design. Aboriginal art also serves as maps of the land, which travel writer Bruce Chatwin



Kim Wandin's bronze sculpture.

describes as "Songlines" in a book of the same name.

Today's Aboriginal artists not only preserve traditional storytelling but also engage with contemporary issues. For instance, bushfires, a common occurrence in Victoria, have been the theme of an Aboriginal artist, Molly Tjami. Her painting, Waru (Fire), reflects on the devastating bushfires of February 2009.

Contemporary Aboriginal artists have expanded into installation and sculptural art, building upon traditional techniques such as wood carving and fibre weaving. Kim Wandin's bronze sculpture, Luk Bagurrk Gunga (Eel Woman Catch), 2023, commissioned by the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), pays tribute to Wurundjeri women and their matrilineal weaving traditions. It symbolises their relationship with the short-finned eel (luk), whose migratory paths now traverse underground waterways in Naarm (Melbourne). Cast from a woven form, this eight-metre-long sculpture conveys fluidity and motion, capturing the essence of a traditional fishing tool vital to the Wurundjeri culture. Aboriginal art, at least in the State of Victoria, has slowly and steadily migrated into mainstream art and culture, getting due recognition besides getting institutional encouragement with the establishment of the Koorie Heritage Trust in 1985, which organises exhibitions and promotes Aboriginal art and craft.

The annual Koorie Art Show in Melbourne, which includes painting, sculpture, weaving and mixed media, is open to Aboriginal artists across the State of Victoria. So far, 12 editions have taken place. The exhibition does not acquire the work of the artists, allowing the artists to retain the ownership of their work.



The main hall with the Henrik Sorensen decoration.

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KHB SITE SALE at Surya Nagar Phase 2. 30x40, 20x30, Near Anekal Road, Chandrapura 9066865343, ...

Devanahalli

FOR SALE PRIME PROPERTY WITH THREE SIDES ROAD, BANGALORE- HYDERABAD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE TO NANDI UPACHAR HOTEL, NANDI HILLS ROAD, STRR 320FEET DABASPET- CHENNAI EXPRESS HIGHWAY AND STRR SERVICE ROAD, 1-05GUNTAS, CORNER PROPERTY WITH 3.5 FAR, CONTACT VICTORY PROPERTIES. www.victoryproperties.in, info@victoryproperties.in, 7411692219/ 8618576685/ 9482303339/ 9686894972

J P Nagar

"J.P.NAGAR, SRINIDHI LAYOUT

30x51 Residential Site, East Facing, BBMP A. Katha, Full White, Owner:- 9845088449/ 9845249799"

Kanakapura Road

SITE FOR SALE: MARUTHI LAYOUT Subramanyapura 30x50 West Facing 30 Feet Road, BBMP A.katha, Call. 9740148870 9341050991.

Magadi Road

30X40 WEST_FACE

BEL 1st Stage, BDA Allotment, Nearest East West College, Herohalli_Magadi Road. No Broker. Call 9008652533

Multiple Locations

SELLING/ BUYING HOUSES, SITES:30x40 40x60 FLATS, COMMERCIAL, Javanagar, JP.Nagar BASAVANAGUDI Kanakapura Road, BANASHANKARI, BTM HSR, CALL 7760019494

Nagarabhavi

"RAILWAY 2ND STAGE

30x40 West facing, builder location, opp.Soda factory, near Ullal RTQ, Good Location. 9845408408

"NAGARABHAVI NEAR Deepa Complex

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Vijayanagar

SITE FOR SALE: 60X90 WEST FACING WOC ROAD RPC LAYOUT ONLY GENUINE BUYERS CONTACT: 6363250343

Vishweshwariah Layout

BUYING/ SELLING

20x30, 30x40, 40x60, 50x80 BDA Sites VISHVESHWARIAIAH LAYOUT, KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT, Contact: 9035470616

"BUYING/SELLING" 20X30 30x40,40x60,50X80 BDA SITES VISHWESHWARIAIAH KEMPEGOWDA LAYOUT. CONTACT:REENIDHI PROPERTY JUNCTION. 9742681666

SIR M Vishweswariah Layout 20x30 BDA Site Sale West Facing of Rs. 65L. Lokesh 9886201690

Mysore

50*80 PRIME RESIDENTIAL SITE FOR SALE

40 Feet Road, South Face, Behind 80 Ft. Road, Vijayanagar 4th Stage, Close to Marimallapa Compound, Mysore. Resale Property 2.9cr Negotiable Contact: 9739703467 9686895205

MYSORE MUDA SITE

50x80 SALE Vijayanagara 4th Stage 2nd Phase 60ft Road Rs.8750 Psft Brokers Excuse saleprimesite@gmail.com

Kempegowda Layout

SITES FOR sale Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout 'BDA' no. 1678, 40*60 south facing 'E' Sector 8th block, and no. 1046, 50*80 west facing 'K' Sector 1st block 330 feet peripheral ring road commercial property. 9980339217/ 9448709882.

Commerical

Anjanapura

COMMERCIAL SITE FOR SALE Site No. 685 Anjanapura 8th block, north facing 50*80. Call 6362874644.

Vishweshwariah Layout

BDA COMMERCIAL 40*60 Site,s Sale SMVL 5th Block Near KLE Law College 60ft Road. 9980433004

Farm House/ Land/ Resorts

Out-Station

JACKANARAI, KALLAR, NILGIRIS, Tamil Nadu: 65 Acres Patta Land with Teak Wood many more for SALE Contact: 9848392893, 905220009

Residential/ Commercial

Girinagar

40*60 SITE old house for sale in girinagar, near Nandagokula sabhangana, Genuine buyer, no middle men please. Email pgnagara@gmail.com.....

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Banashankari

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J P Nagar

SALE BDA HOUSE 20x24 Javanagar 6th Block Three Units Near Metro Station RS. 1.25 Crore 7892531744 9448369117

SALE 20X30 old Building West Facing J.P.Nagar 4th Phase Rs. 1.40cr Negotiable Contact: 9880425607

FOR SALE: JP NAGAR 5th Phase Fully Furnished 4BHK 30 Squares DUPLEX Residential Building on 40x60- 8 Crores. Buyers Call: 9343728200.....

Kengeri

RESIDENCIAL BUILDING SALE 30x50' BBMP E-katha 1 Lakh Rental' Income 2BHK:5units, 3BHK:1Unit Near Hoysala circle Kengeri Upanagar. Brokers' Excuse. Call 9738016535

Vijayanagar

3BHK 2FLOOR BUILDING 1200.Sqft. (680.Sqft. BDA Site) 500.Sqft.Covered Carparking. 2.2cr.Nego Next'to Prashantnagar Main Road. Close'to Vijayanagar Metro Station. 9980349098.

Vidyaranyapura

4-STORY HOUSE FOR-SALE in Ramchandrapura, Jalahalli (post), Bangalore 560013. The property boasts of 5 Houses with 2 BHK (3 Houses)and 1 BHK (2 Houses) with Parking Space. Price: 17500000/- .Property Size:600 sqft. Total built-up area:2700sqft. Constructed: April 2025. South-Facing Road. All House East-Facing. Contact: D.Gopal 9880450523/ 8496085574.

60'X40' BEL Layout, 2 Block, Independent 4 BHK Duplex Ready to move 16000/- S/F: 9844264852

Rajajinagar

30X40 BUILDING Sale G +2, 6th block Rajajinagar, East face, 27 thousand/ sft. Ramesh: 9845253456.....

Flat

Lingarajapuram

APARTMENTS LINGARAJAPURAM Near Davis Road 2 Bedrooms 1070 Sqft 64L, 750 Sqft 45L with Carpark. 9945855800.....

Banashankari

SALE FLAT NANDI ENCLAVE BSK 3RD STAGE 2BHK FURNISHED 1050 SQFT CARPARKING RS.70 LAKHS DETAILS: 7892035229

Hennur

3BHK LUXURY Flats For-Sale/ Rent at Promax Dreamville Home, Hennur Main-Road Kothanur Bangalore-77, 8073977742 6364588805

Jayanagar

SALE 2-BHK FLAT G.F. NORTH FULLY FURNISHED JAYANAGAR 1st BLOCK EAST GENUINE BUYERS 7795936271 9480338676

Kengeri

KENGERI, 1 BHK BDA Apartment 1st Floor For Sale of Rs. 17 Lakhs, Lokesh: 9886201690.....

Kanakapura Road

3BHK APARTMENT for Sale 40x60, 2400.Sqft. Individual Floor near Vajarahalli and Raghuvanahalli Metro Station 1' KM. Call 9740148870 9341050991.

Vidyaranyapura

VIDYARANYAPURA: EAST FACING 2BHK FLAT 1ST FLOOR, 1195SQFT NEAR DURGA PARAMESWARI TEMPLE CONTACT 7996381014.....

Seshadripuram

2 BHK Flat for Sale 923 sqft N/F Madhavanagar 560001. Contact Number: 9845042454.

Agricultural Land

Out-Station

LAND @ Reasonable Price Tumkur 110acre, Pavagada 550, Mysore 280, Gulbarga 7000, Maharashtra 3500, 9535195656

REAL ESTATE BUYING

Sites

Banashankari

BDA SITES WANTED ARKAVATHY ANJANAPURA BANASHANKRI 6TH STAGE VISHWESHWARAIAH KEMPEGOWDA ANY BDA LAYOUT: 9845062822/ 8660751654

Multiple Locations

WANTED BDA SITES Anjanapura- Arkavathi Banashankari 6th.Stage, Vishweswaraiah, Kempegowda, SAPTHAGIRI (Opp.BDA Head Office, Kumara Park). 9036360366.

Vishweshwariah Layout

WANTED BDA Sites (NRI) Nagarbhavi, Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Banashankari, Kempegowda Layout Contact: 9620696913/ 9880781399 Immediate Settlement

BUYING/ SELLING 20x30,30x40,40x60 50x80 BDA sites at VISHVESHWARAIAH LAYOUT, BSK 6th-stage. Contact: 9844533371/ 9341733480

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Mysore Road

ANY PROPERTY only Buyers and Sellers in Around Mysore Road Contact: 9845810954 / 9353992532.....

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General

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FOR RENT, Off` 80ft Kanakapura Road, 10x15 Shop, Excellent Commercial location suitable for Sandwich, Ice-creams, Coffee Shop, Owner 9845232711

2BHK HOUSE Rent Ground Floor (1300sft) Suitable Office/ House. YELAHANKA, KOGILU MAIN ROAD. 8880974545.

House

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Accommodation Wanted

Flat

WANTED 2 BHK FLAT/HOUSE for RENT in Rajarajeshwari Nagar. Brokers Excuse. Owners only Call: 9845054262.

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CHANGE OF NAME I. SWATHI P SHIVRANJINI @ SWATHI SIVARANJINI residing at No. 77, 12th Main, 2nd Cross, Next to Ajit Layout, Vinayaka Layout, Bangalore - 560049 Declare that the above names pertain to me and henceforth I shall be known as SWATHI SIVARANJINI vide affidavit dated 08.10.2025 before Notary C.Giri Babu, Bangalore.

Lost

LOST It is Notified for the information that my Original Certificate of BBM Degree in the year May 2011, Roll No.08BMC08041 issued by Bangalore University has been lost. Ananya.S.N, Dio S.S. Nagesh, 1/25/2, 6th Cross, 5th Block, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-85, Contact: 8971625369 Police Complaint No.1816993/2025

CHANGE OF NAME I. GOPAL KRISHNA RAO KN, S/o Narayana Rao KN, resident of No 167, Gangamma Gudi Road, M V EXTN, Hoskote, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka- 562114, have changed my name from GOPAL KRISHNA RAO KN to GOPALA KRISHNA RAO KN vide affidavit dated 13/10/2025, Sworn before notary B.Hanumantharaya, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME I. SREELAKSHMI G. S. W/o Gopalakrishna Rao K.N, residing at No.167, Gangamma Gudi Road, M.V. Extension, Hosakote, Bengaluru - 562114, have changed my name from SREELAKSHMI G. S. to SHREE LAKSHMI G.S. vide affidavit 13.10.2025 before notary B.Hanumantharaya, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME I. TAJUDDIN, Residing at # 209-B, JHBCS Layout, 9th Cross End, Near Minhaj Masjid, Minhaj Nagar, J P Nagar, Bengaluru - 560078, have changed our minor daughter's name from TAJIYYAA to TAQIYYAA TAJ vide affidavit dated 17.10.2025 before notary L. Puttaraju, Bengaluru. Henceforth she shall be called as TAQIYYAA TAJ only

I, AKHIL (Old Name) R/o Kanaka Nilaya, HIG 23, 15th Ward, KHB Colony, Sindhanur. Have changed my name as AKHIL GOVINDRAO HAGARAOND (New Name) vide affidavit Dtd: 14-10-2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary Public H. Pampanna at Sindhanur

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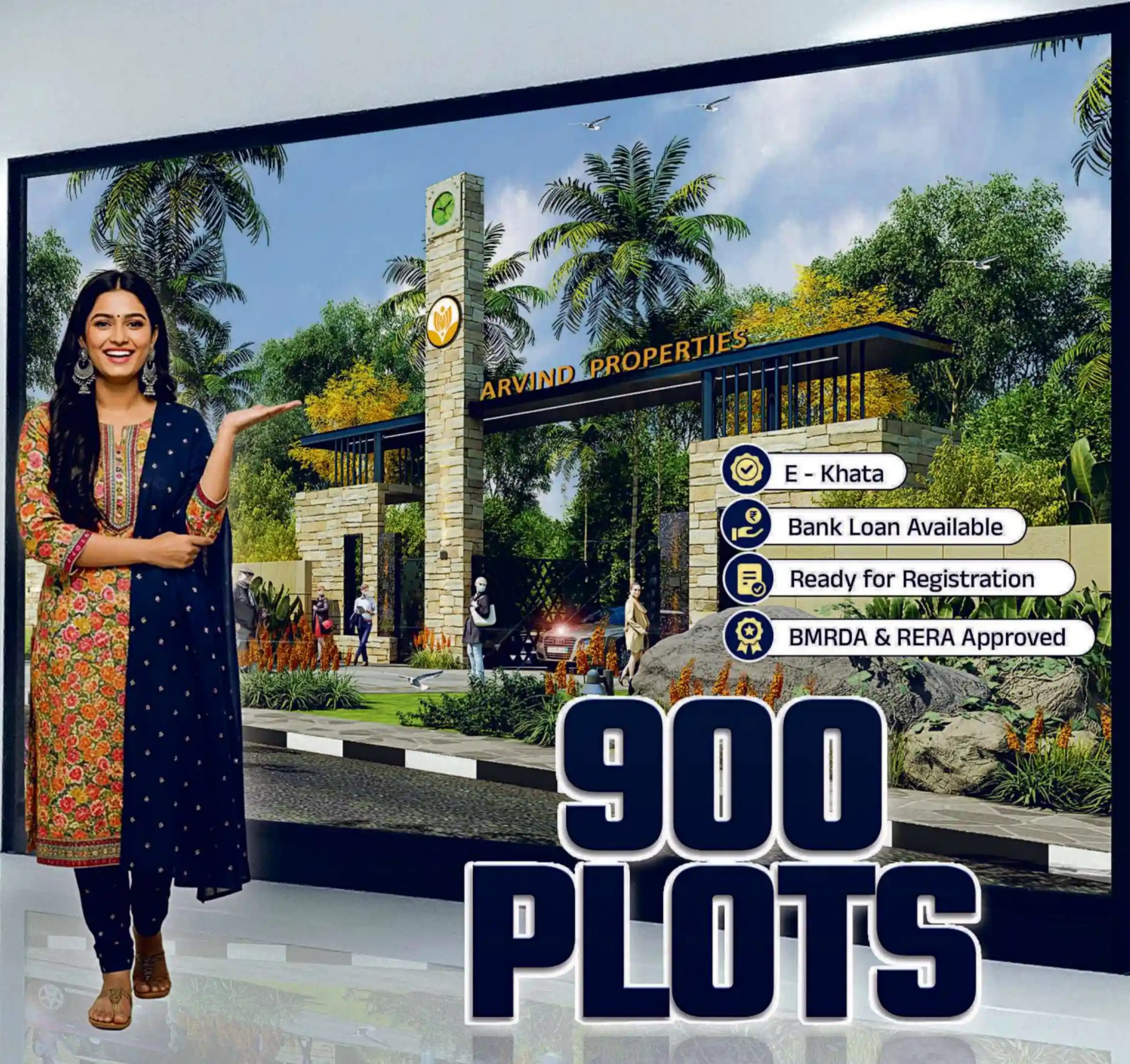


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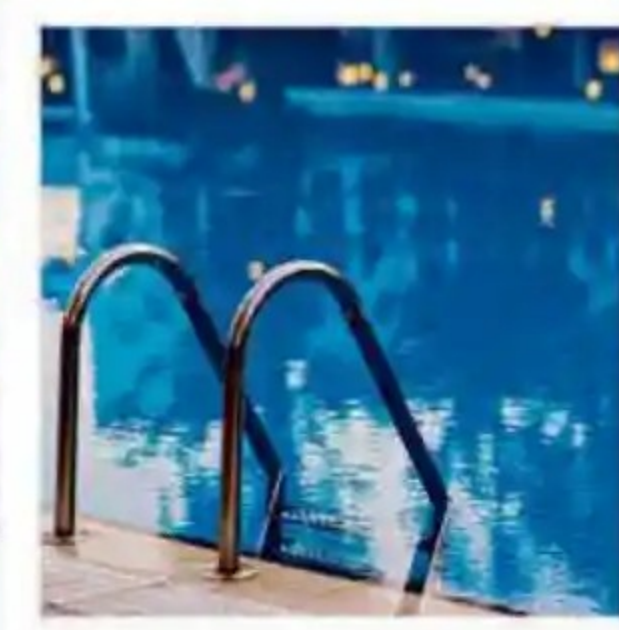
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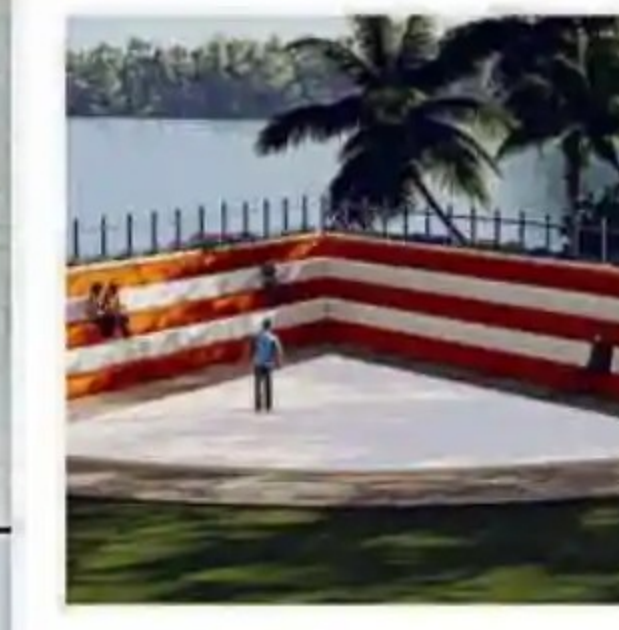
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